

Monday December 16 1996

Table of flight routes and times including destinations like Abu Dhabi, Athens, Amsterdam, etc.

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Is Gusty Spence Ulster's Mandela? Wind of change G2 with Europe weather



Media Michael White: How I started a media virus G2 pages 8-9

Five pages of unrivalled writing SportExtra England reclaim their losing habit



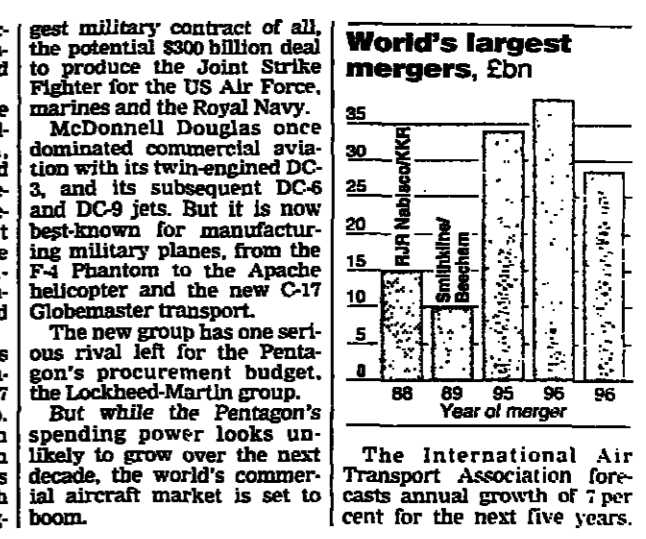
US merger raises Airbus fears

Threat to 25,000 British workers

EROSPACE Boeing and McDonnell Douglas announce a \$25.6 billion (\$28 billion) merger yesterday...

Its combined sales of almost \$50 billion would catapult the new jumbo into the top 10 US corporations...

companies also collaborate on the Goshawk trainer, and BAe was closely involved in producing the failed McDonnell Douglas design for the Joint Strike Fighter...



Major could win month respite

JOHN Major will tonight buy a four-week respite for his battered government when he offers the motley coalition of disaffected MPs who can bring him down a Christmas policy package designed to cheer them up...



The actress and singer Madonna at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles for the world premiere of British director Alan Parker's film Evita, in which she plays the title role. Review, page 2

Blair to signal tough line on sloppy schools

JOHN Blair will today try to bury 30 years of argument about comprehensive schooling with a speech calling for a new political consensus on education and placing Labour's plans for improving standards and discipline at the heart of his programme for government...

How a tactical error by Southampton's manager cost Dia

Southampton manager Graeme Souness's eyes and feet on to the pitch at the Dell. The normally streetwise Souness's mistake was to fall for a phone call from a man claiming to be World Footballer of the Year, George Weah, of AC Milan...

Southampton got international clearance for the striker on November 22. The following day he made his debut against Leeds, coming on for injured England international Matthew Le Tissier...

anyone else. I do know George Weah. I've got his telephone number in Milan and I've met him a couple of times - but I'm certainly not his best mate...



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The Guardian International Umbrella advertisement. Includes text: 'Protect yourself from the elements with the stylish Guardian International umbrella.' and a form for ordering.

Chris Mihill on a sad and expensive addiction



Shoppers in Oxford Street, London — an estimated 700,000 shopaholics have an average debt of up to £7,000, and rarely enjoy or use their purchases PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Don't go mad, go shopping



Pop star Elton John loves spending money. He buys for himself — more than 3,000 pairs of glasses, and hundreds of items of jewellery — and for his friends. He bought Liz Taylor a £100,000 ring, his boyfriend an £80,000 Aston Martin, and he gave a Rembrandt to his favourite guitarist.



The debt-ridden Duchess of York, former wife of Prince Andrew, last month admitted she was addicted to shopping. She reportedly spent £200,000 in one hour at Bloomingdale's, New York, and took one car for herself and another for her purchases. She said she equated shopping with a lack of self-esteem.

THOSE who are powerless to resist that must-have item as they haunt Britain's shopping centres should reflect on the fact that their addiction probably springs from an unhappy relationship or revenge.

As the Christmas jingle of tills reaches heights not seen since the mid-1980s, researchers from Oxford university report today that an estimated 700,000 shopaholics have an average debt of up to £7,000 and rarely enjoy or use their purchases anyway. Richard Elliott and Kevin Gournay analysed questionnaires from 101 "addictive consumers" and compared them with 292 "normal" shoppers. They also interviewed 50 shopaholics — 46 women and four men aged between 19 and 74. They asked about lifestyle and problems such as marital breakdown, stress or substance abuse, and how they felt about their behaviour.

Half the group had debts of between £1,000 and £7,000, and one in 10 had debts of more than £12,000. One woman owed £70,000 after remortgaging her house to fund her habit. Almost all the purchases were clothes, which they often never wore. The Oxford study, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, says many women use shopping in the same way men use alcohol — to forget their problems. One woman aged 37 said: "Shopping is the only time I forget all the other problems in life." Another woman aged 48 said: "Shopping makes me forget who I am — I feel I can get away from the real me." Compulsive shoppers emerge as sad and sometimes depressed people who see their relentless purchasing as a way of exercising control over their lives. Lifting their mood or exacting revenge for failed relationships.



'Don't get mad, get everything' Ivana Trump (left), in cameo role in the film The First Wives' Club

The former Czech ski champion and ex-wife of US billionaire Donald Trump took the title of Queen of Shopping from Imelda Marcos, the former Philippines first lady who had 3,000 pairs of shoes in her wardrobe. Mrs Trump won a \$25 million divorce settlement, allowing her to retain the title. Her House of Ivana range of cosmetics and jewellery, available on a TV shopping channel, has brought the joys of shopping to millions of couch potatoes.

The researchers also looked at factors such as how often people bought things, they knew they could not afford, whether they felt others would be horrified if they knew of their spending habits, and whether people felt anxious or nervous on days they did not go shopping. The survey shows that the "pathological" shoppers were at different stages of their addiction — some had taken steps to break the habit while others had only recently come to terms with the unmanageable financial and social consequences of their addiction. However all exhibited the same characteristics. "They showed the same pattern of anticipation and excitement prior to and during the shopping experience, feelings of guilt and remorse afterward, and a desire to keep their behaviour and goods a secret." Revenge was an important motive for one in 10 addictive shoppers. In other cases people were using shopping

to create meaning for their lives, trying to become skillful purchasers, making the best possible buys with the money available to them. The revenge group experienced a lack of control in relationships, either with partners or fathers. "They felt undermined and patronised and that their only responsibility was for 'mundane' tasks such as housekeeping and cooking. Comments such as 'he still treats me like a child' were common. Some consumers perceived themselves as the victims of betrayal in a relationship. Having taken overt action to address the situation and found it unsuccessful, they adopt a more submissive method of 'getting back' at their partner — by developing and maintaining an addiction to consumption." Many of the addictive shoppers went shopping three or four days a week — and one in 10 shopped every day. The study found that 65 per

cent of the addictive shoppers often felt others would be horrified if they knew of their spending habits, compared with 10 per cent of the normal shoppers. Sixty-one per cent of the addicts had often bought things when they could not afford them, compared with 10 per cent of the normal group, and 21 per cent of the addicts felt nervous or anxious on days when they did not go shopping, compared with 1 per cent of the normal group.

Audit leads to Abbey tightening controls

Dominic Walsh and Alec Brumner

THE Abbey National, Britain's second biggest mortgage lender, has moved to strengthen the financial controls in its treasury department after its auditors, Coopers & Lybrand, expressed deep concern about their durability. The move follows a routine audit under Section 39 of the Banking Act, which was automatically passed to the Bank of England. It is understood the Bank, which regulates the Abbey National, has endorsed the changes proposed by Coopers & Lybrand in conjunction with the Abbey's board. The Abbey's board is believed to have been alerted to deep concerns at a lack of risk control systems in its treasury function, which is mainly responsible for raising money on the wholesale markets. The treasury function, set up when Abbey National joined the stock market in 1989, manages the group's balance sheet exposures, hedging against interest rate changes and currency movements.

When the Guardian contacted the Abbey at the beginning of last week it denied the existence of any critical report or document on the operations of its treasury. However, in a series of conversations with the Guardian over the last week Gareth Jones, the group treasurer, said that in the course of its audits "the auditors came up with a lot of recommendations of how things should be improved and these have been acted upon". He added there had been no losses in the treasury department and Coopers & Lybrand had given it "an absolutely clear report". Abbey National's finance director, Ian Harley, said: "Every organisation will flag up issues, but they should not be taken out of context." He confirmed, however, that the company had been contacted by the Bank of England over the matter. The Bank has considerably tightened its procedures for the regulation and supervision of banks over the last 18 months following the Barings fiasco, when Nick Leeson's trading activities sparked Barings' collapse. Under the terms of the Banking Act it can convene a tripartite meeting of the company officials responsible, the company's auditors and Bank of England supervisors, when questions about compliance are raised. As a result of the questions raised by Coopers & Lybrand, the Abbey has reportedly moved its dealing rooms from Newbury, Berkshire, to an improved facility in London's Docklands. It has invested heavily in information technology systems and security and instituted triple checking to ensure incorrect details of treasury trades do not enter its computer records. Mr Jones had told the Guardian that any changes of procedures made were in keeping with the general effort to tighten up supervision of banking institutions, following the Barings debacle in February 1995. In statements to the Sunday Telegraph, Coopers & Lybrand said: "We are entirely satisfied that Abbey National takes these reports seriously and responds to any recommendations for ongoing improvements." Abbey National has a market value of almost £10 billion, annual profits of more than £1 billion and — following the recent acquisition of National & Provincial, another mortgage lender — some 15 per cent of the UK home loans market. A letter this week to the Guardian from Herbert Smith, the Abbey National's solicitors, refers to the existence of "a report prepared by our clients' auditors, Coopers & Lybrand, for our clients' purposes". It adds: "This report is clearly confidential to our clients." Although there is no suggestion whatsoever that the lack of risk control systems has led to any abnormal losses by Abbey National, the Bank of England's interest will focus attention on the risks involved in running a complex treasury operation. This will be of particular interest at a time when many building societies are moving from the tightly controlled regime operated by the Building Societies Commission to the greater freedom allowed to them as banks.

Cypriot suspicions greet Rifkind

Islanders dismiss minister's brief peace mission as electioneering

Chris Drake in Nicosia and Ian Black in London

CYNICISM and indifference greeted the arrival in Cyprus yesterday of Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, on a peace mission highly touted by the Foreign Office. On what is billed as a two-day visit — although it will last less than 24 hours — Mr Rifkind is pitching into an international effort to bring about a settlement between the Greeks and Turks on the divided island, even though diplomats admit that the chances of success are uncertain. The visit was brought forward by one day because the Foreign Secretary has to hurry back to London, now that the Conservatives have lost their parliamentary majority, in time for tonight's Commons vote on European Union fisheries policy.

Today's Cyprus Mail gave voice to the suspicion widely held in the Greek-controlled south of the island, although denied in London, that Mr Rifkind's visit is mainly aimed at winning votes for the Tories from the large Cypriot community in Britain in the forthcoming General Election. Mr Rifkind's change of schedule was not lost on some of those Greek Cypriots doing their Christmas shopping in Nicosia yesterday. One woman outside the local branch of Marks & Spencer said: "Your British politicians are the same as all the rest. They're more interested in saving themselves." Publicly, Cypriot officials will give Mr Rifkind a warm welcome, but even they do not deny privately that they believe his visit will produce few concrete results. With the United States and the EU working on fresh initiatives, Cypriots north and south of the line which divides the island believe Britain is trying to claw back its role as leader of any mediation process. However, they admit that such international competition is no bad thing. All the external parties working on Cyprus — the US, the EU and the United Nations — share Britain's view that the status quo is too dangerous to maintain. Four Greek Cypriots and one Turkish soldier have been killed along the buffer zone between the two sectors in recent months. And with a large military force from mainland Turkey entrenched in the north of the island, the Greek south has been on an arms-buying spree. Mr Rifkind is to meet separately today with the Cypriot president, Glafcos Clerides, and Rauf Denktaş, who heads the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus established in 1983 but recognised only by Turkey. "The chances are not brilliant, but a window of opportunity does exist," said one British official. "The problem is that it is a very small window and Mr Denktaş is a very big person." Negotiations have been stuck since 1992 when both sides looked at a UN-brokered set of "ideas" — formal draft proposals always provoke disagreement — for a "bi-zonal, bi-communal federation" of the two communities. Mr Rifkind is accompanied by Sir David Hannay, one of the most sharp-tongued of Britain's diplomatic trouble-shooters, who has been preparing the ground since being brought out of retirement to become a special envoy last May. Sir David, a former ambassador to the EU and UN, has drawn up a strategy of linking the drive for a settlement to the prospect of Cyprus's accession to the EU, on which talks are due to begin in 1998. There was much bristling last month when Mr Rifkind told the House of Commons that it would be "extremely difficult" for Cyprus to join before there was a peace deal.


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People still want a church wedding and perhaps a Christian baptism, but this nominal Christianity is not going to stop them consulting clairvoyants, dabbling in meditation, being fascinated with the paranormal and using an astrologer. Religious belief has become a DIY cocktail.

G2 cover story



Albert Wilson, above, charged with raping his 12-year-old stepdaughter, is in prison in Manila where his partner Vicky Delistan, below, visits him daily

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Briton on rape charge in Philippines fears he could be victim of court hostility

Owen Bowcott on an alleged 'heinous crime'

A FORMER taxi driver from Kent, facing a death sentence in the Philippines on a charge of rape, has claimed he is the victim of an attempt to extort money from him.

Albert "Suny" Wilson, who has lived with his common law wife, Vicky Delistan, in a suburb north of Manila for the past five years, is being

held in a local prison, sharing a cell with more than 20 other inmates.

Unshaven and with a sallow complexion, Mr Wilson, aged 45, can receive visitors and telephone calls but cannot exercise. He sleeps on the concrete floor of Cell Number 6 in Valenzuela jail. Water must be carried up in a plastic dustbin to be divided

among prisoners and there is only one toilet.

"Every time I want to leave the cell to take a telephone call or stretch my legs," Mr Wilson explains, "I have to pay the guards 20 pesos (50 pence). The food is inedible, rice and sometimes a small amount of fish and vegetables.

"What they give us in a week, you would normally eat at one sitting. I have lost two stone since arriving here."

Mr Wilson was arrested three months ago and charged with raping his 12-year-old stepdaughter. Under Philippine law the offence is classed as a "heinous crime" and can be punishable by death. Capital punishment was re-

introduced in 1994. According to the latest figures, there are 267 convicts on death row. Of those, 46 are fathers found guilty of raping their daughters. There have not yet been any executions.

The British embassy, whose staff have been visiting Mr Wilson, hopes that because the charge does not involve a blood relative, the death sentence could not be passed.

But Mr Wilson's Manila lawyer, Mrs Nazareno, says that the case has been classified as a "heinous crime" despite the fact that there is no corroborating evidence and that medical reports are inconclusive.

Ms Delistan, aged 36, has stood by him, supporting his claim that her daughter was persuaded to make the allegations in order to force him to pay out cash to relatives.

"They want to make money out of me," Mr Wilson maintains. "I'm a foreigner and to them that means I'm a millionaire. They have approached me and asked for 1 million pesos (£25,000) to have the allegations withdrawn."

Mr Wilson first went to the Philippines on holiday in 1990. He returned the following year and decided to stay. He has two children of his own in Britain. His daughter, Denise, aged 22, who lives in Dover, has just given birth to a grandchild, Jordan, he has never seen.

"He was back here in April and there was no problem at all then," she said. "He's been going back and forth for several years. I can't believe what's happened."

The timing of the case is also worrying Mr Wilson's lawyers. Several Britons have recently received long sentences in widely reported paedophile cases in the Philippines. The judicial climate is not expected to be sympathetic to Britons coming before the courts.

"I have had local television cameras in the prison taking pictures of me in the cell," Mr Wilson says.

Even if he is found not guilty, he fears that the process may take several years. "There are people in here who have been waiting for three years for a trial."

Their home, built by Mr Wilson, is a two-roomed bungalow several miles away on the outskirts of town. There is a statue of the Virgin Mary on one wall and beneath it the motto: "Wish and expect miracles to happen."

The Foreign Office, which has helped Mr Wilson find a lawyer, said it was aware of the case and his claims.

Demand to seek out SS pensioners

Vivak Chaudhary

CALLS were mounting yesterday for an investigation into reports that hundreds of former SS soldiers and Nazi collaborators living in Britain are being paid a pension by the German government for their war service.

According to reports, the German government is paying more than £1 million per year to 458 former soldiers who settled in Britain after the war.

Politicians and Jewish groups said yesterday that the payments needed to be investigated to ensure that none of the veterans was guilty of war crimes.

The German government refuses to release a list of those receiving pensions, and British police and war crimes investigators are only allowed access if they have specific names.

Most of those receiving the pension of £2,800 per year, on top of state pensions they receive from the British government, are believed to be from the former Soviet bloc where they enrolled or were conscripted into Hitler's Waffen SS or police units attached to the military. Some are also believed to be ethnic Germans who settled in Britain.

Lord Merlyn-Rees, the former Home Secretary and chairman of the all-party parliamentary war crimes committee, said: "It is important to discover if there is any sense in which those people receiving payments committed war crimes."

Winston Churchill, Conservative MP for Davyhulme, added: "It doesn't surprise me at all that the German au-

thorities have an obligation to pay German war veterans, even from the Hitler period, a war pension. And it wouldn't surprise me at all if they were more generous than what the British Government gives British war pensioners.

"But the only story I can see here is if some of them are war criminals. The thing that amazes me is that the post-war Labour government made its effort to get people from Germany and eastern Europe prior to admitting them to this country."

According to reports, many of the pensioners served in the 14th Waffen SS "Galician" division, whose members were allowed into Britain during the 1940s and 1950s.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's The World This Weekend, Greville Janner, Labour MP for Leicester West, said that the SS was a "proscribed war criminal organisation", and all those receiving payments needed to be investigated.

He added: "It does not mean that the individuals were part of the concentration camps or murders. To the best of our knowledge the vast majority of people living in this country were not. But they were members of Hitler's organisation and must have known what was going on."

"I blame anyone who joined the SS." News of the payments comes as a pre-trial hearing is due to take place tomorrow in Sheffield in the case of Szymon Serafinowicz, who lives in Surrey and is accused of murdering Jews in Belarus. Most of the veterans in Britain managed to avoid scrutiny until the passing of the War Crimes Act in 1991. Since then a Scotland Yard inquiry has led to around 300 cases being reviewed.



Friends who became E. coli victims

Erlend Clouston at the church where one of the worst food poisoning outbreaks started

THE bespectacled minister quipped up the green lemonade bottle. "Look, here's some we brought back," said Rev James Davidson, wryly sloshing the turquoise holy water to and fro.

Mr Davidson was explaining how two years ago the same fluid had been used to baptise Josie Foster, the 83-year-old Wishaw woman who this weekend became the twelfth victim of Lanarkshire's E. coli epidemic. The epidemic has now reached the dubious distinction of being one of the world's worst food poisoning outbreaks.

"She was a delightful old buddy," reminisced the cleric who has now had to bury five poisoned members of his congregation with another two more scheduled for this week.

Mr Davidson led the Wishaw Old Church expedition to the Holy Land which ended with Mrs Foster being baptised at Caesarea, below Mount Hermon, in Phillippi. "She did everything; she had a great time," he recalled.

His service, once again, had been forced to mingle the Christmas message of hope with spoken and unspoken responses to the

plague which has overwhelmed his 150-year-old church.

Mrs Foster had been one of 90 diners two weeks ago for the twice-yearly meal laid on by the parish for the very elderly and housebound.

Neighbours yesterday remembered a generous woman. "She used to sit at the window waving at everyone who walked past," reported retired coach-builder Frank Stafford.

The church meal had been a treat for the Aidrie hairdresser's widow, largely dependent on the dial-a-bus service and various neighbours and pieces to stay in touch.

In his office, adjacent to the fatal dining room, 54-

year-old Mr Davidson pointed out the seven deceased had been his friends, not just church members.

Earlier, details of the funeral services for Josie, Jimmy Henderson and Bert Swanston had been tactfully delayed until the Sunday school children fled out.

Mr Davidson said prayers for "Josie", "doctors and nurses" and "that we may be victors in spite of being victims". Two of the original 14 diners remain in hospital, with a further 15 recovering at home.

Spiritually, he believes the line is holding. Yesterday's 130 worshippers were given a sermon based on St Paul's Letter to the Romans which emphasised the permanence of God's presence in times of tribulation.

Ex-Royal Navy man seeks damages for asbestosis

Kate Watson-Smyth

A RETIRED Royal Naval engineer who was exposed to asbestos dust during his service will tomorrow challenge in the High Court the law that prevents serving members of the Armed Forces from pursuing claims for compensation.

Ronald Quinn, 65, is the first person to bring such a case which, if successful, could open the floodgates for hundreds of similar claims.

Mr Quinn, who served in the navy from 1949 to 1956, suffers from asbestosis and is practically bedridden. He is seeking damages of up to \$125,000.

As the law stands civilian employees of the Ministry of Defence are able to claim

compensation for asbestosis-related illness but servicemen are not.

During one eight-week period Mr Quinn worked on HMS Glory as a stoker/mechanic. He was required to clean the boiler which meant stripping asbestos insulation from pipes. Workers had no protective equipment, and were not warned of the dangers, according to Mr Quinn.

In 1979 he was forced into early retirement through ill-health and in 1989 he was told he had a malignant mesothelioma. He is too ill to travel from his home in Leeds to Manchester for the hearing but his solicitor, Paul Gianville, said he was determined to fight the case.

"It is all down to the wording of section 10 of the 1947 Crown Proceedings Act."

Gothic collection to lay a nest egg

Geoffrey Gibbs

WHEN Andrew Stevens spotted a rare copy of a Conan Doyle novel in a London bookshop more than 30 years ago it sparked a life-long passion which is expected to produce a \$100,000 retirement nest egg.

The Return of Sherlock Holmes — bought for the then princely sum of three pounds and ten shillings — became the first book in a collection of over 6,000 pieces of early detective fiction and gothic horror stories. The best of them came under the hammer at Sotheby's in London tomorrow.

Mr Stevens, who has a law practice in Devon, has decided to part with over 2,000 Victorian and Gothic titles.

Some — including a first edition of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde still in its original paper cover — will be particularly hard to part with. Mr Stevens discovered the Stevenson scholar on display outside a bookshop in a Welsh border town. He paid a shilling but says the book has become highly sought after and is now worth around £1,000.

One of the most unusual books is a copy of the first ever Dracula novel. The book, which pre-dates Bram Stoker's work by almost 20 years, was written by Lord Byron, physician, John Polidori, after he had taken part in a ghost-story telling competition with Byron and Mary and Percy Shelley.

As well as spawning Mary Shelley's gothic masterpiece Frankenstein the occasion

also inspired Polidori to write The Vampyre. In an attempt to ensure the book's success Polidori's publishers inscribed the words "The Vampyre, a tale by Lord Byron" on the inside fly sheet.

Byron ordered that his name should be removed and the edition on sale at Sotheby's is thought by Mr Stevens to be the only copy with the "little deceit" inside.

Also in the sale is a novel published in 1882 under the pseudonym of Grip which is the stuff of every modern day Europhobe's nightmares. How John Bull Lost London or The Capture Of The Channel Tunnel, which is attributed to J Drew Gay, tells the story of an agreement to build a tunnel. French soldiers dressed as tourists then invaded the old enemy.



Andrew Stevens with his books PHOTOGRAPH: ROBIN PRICE

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Britain in Europe

Blair denies he will be 'soft touch' for the EU

Michael White and John Palmer

TONY Blair yesterday moved to reassure voters that he plans to make Britain a "strong leading player" in the European Union if he wins the coming election, in contrast to what he dismissed as the self-defeating "perpetual marginalisation" of John Major.

In an interview designed to neutralise the concerted Tory campaign to present him as a "soft touch" on Europe, he insisted that a Blair cabinet would retain national control on areas such as defence, taxation, immigration and border controls — the most emotive negotiating issues in the months up to next June's summit in Amsterdam.

"That is clear, and that is absolute and nobody's in any doubt about that in the rest of Europe. Indeed, in many cases, they share our belief that some of these areas should remain areas of unanimity," said Mr Blair.

But, like Mr Major, he left himself some freedom of manoeuvre to concede less important questions like qualified majority voting. "Waiting for Blair" is one reason why EU leaders shelved key decisions at the weekend summit in Dublin — hoping for a more positive British team.

With Mr Major and his senior colleagues piling on the "soft touch" rhetoric, Mr Blair, fresh from a round of talks with EU leaders, is aware of the pitfalls and is determined to portray the Prime Minister as a virtual ghost at the European table, his credit used up by domestic weakness.

He said on Radio 4's The World This Weekend: "If we're to stay in Europe, the

Labour cabinet 'would retain national control on areas such as defence, tax, immigration and border controls'

test should be: success or failure. And the truth is, because of the problems in the Conservative Party, we are probably in the weakest position Britain has been in — weak in terms of gaining the things we actually want since we entered the Common Market."

In contrast to what some senior Tories last night dismissed as "Mr Blair's road to Damascus", the Labour leadership is determined to do to the Government on Europe what it believes it has

achieved on tax: take a strong Tory issue and make it a plus for Labour.

Privately, Mr Major tells EU leaders he would like to sound more positive, but cannot, Mr Blair was told.

The stakes were raised for both sides in Dublin where Mr Blair joined fellow-EU socialist leaders for their traditional eve-of-summit caucus, though yesterday he emphasised repeatedly that right-of-centre governments also wanted strong British leadership that could use its

Mr Blair told the Dutch prime minister, Wim Kok, that he would take a "co-operative" approach to the inter-governmental conference negotiations and was determined to reach agreement with Britain's EU partners in Amsterdam.

But campaigning in the election on a pro-European stance did not mean he would not put the national interest first, aides later emphasised. "I certainly got the impression that what they want from any British government — whether it's Labour or Conservative — is clarity."

The Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, yesterday said his party would not act in a "capricious or irresponsible" way in deciding the Government's fate in key Commons votes.

He was speaking ahead of today's annual fisheries debate. Mr Trimble said he was looking for assurances over fish and beef — both important industries for Ulster.

"It's only a matter of weeks now to the point at which Parliament will be dissolved and in that period of time we're not going to behave in a capricious or irresponsible manner."

Clarke stands up for euro notes

Michael White

KENNETH CLARKE last night defended the design of the proposed Euro-currency as "deliberately a bit Euro and non-national", and heaped scorn on the Euro-sceptic Tory press for making such a fuss about the banknotes.



Ken Clarke: 'psychedelic colours are for security'

for its notes over the years, and said that "most people don't know what's on the banknotes they use now. I don't think it's just the British... that's true of most of the Continent."

With Saturday's Sun going into orbit over the designers' end to end 1,100 years of history since Alfred the Great reunited England, Mr Clarke must have known he would cause trouble.

But he was not the only ex-treasure leader of a major party to step out yesterday.

Roy Hattersley, Neil Kinnock's deputy for nine years, damned Tony Blair's New Labour Party with the faint praise of a fiery old radical. "New Labour is in many ways a new party, and the British people realise that," Mr Hattersley declared. "It's also a hugely disciplined

party. It is a new party with new standards, new values. Historical connections, but very, very different from what was happening only two years ago.

"And it's also different in a most important way: I think Tony Blair now stands for a spirit that's abroad in the country," he told BBC's Breakfast with Frost.

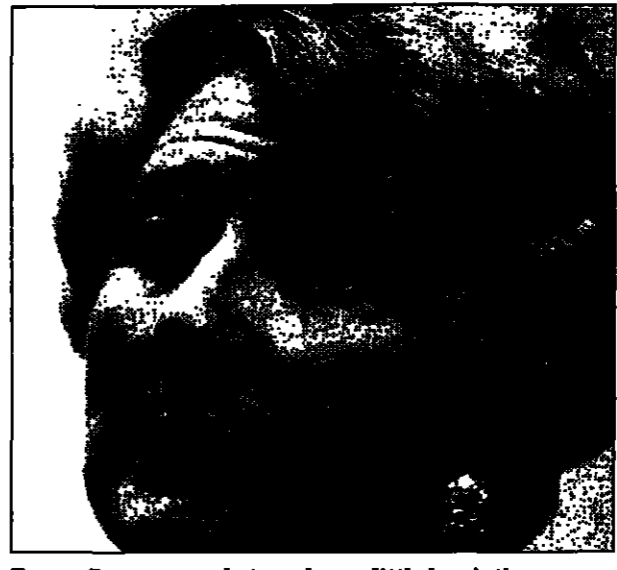
"The spirit is this: we want things to be a bit better, we want to be rather kinder and more compassionate to people. We're not prepared to take immense risks to bring about that great compassion, that greater kindness."

"It's gentle improving, but let's be cautious in our improvement. That's what Tony stands for."



A kiss for Christmas? ... Ms Gorman wants a mistletoe boycott because the main supplier is France. PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL ROBINSON

'Bogus' French berries are kiss of death to loyal Gorman



Teresa Gorman: ready to endure a little less intimacy

Mistletoe's tale

Mistletoe is a unisexual parasite whose roots infiltrate gaps in bark and send runners throughout a tree. It loves apple trees, limes and Hawthorn. It is linked with Christmas because this is thought to have been a traditional time for praying. The English name comes from the Viking mistleinn. Its role as a fertility symbol dates from the druids. A 16th century medical document recommends "mistletoe laid to the head draweth out the corrupt humours" (Doody's notes). Last century it still had such a name for combating ageing it was given the Latin title Ugnum sanctae crucis, wood of the Holy Cross.

TERESA Gorman is making one of the supreme sacrifices for an Essex MP. She is giving up mistletoe for Christmas. "even if it does mean a little less intimacy."

There are many good, healthy, sensible people who refused to buy French apples and French bread," she said. "Now, I hope, they will refuse to buy French mistletoe."

She was joined by the Labour MP for Bolton South-east, David Young, who asked, "Isn't it time that Britain stopped handing all the advantages over to France on a plate? Surely we as a country should be able to make the most of any available market from our own resources."

Planti said that, while the plant was in marked decline in Britain, it was not an endangered species. It could be seen growing on urban lime trees but could not be harvested there. Remarkable mistletoe in Britain had decreased "dramatically".

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Tory left denies defection talk

Michael White considers the prospects of political realignment after the general election over the question of Europe

TORY moderates yesterday dismissed the chances of a mass defection to the Liberal Democrats if the Conservative Party swings to the right after losing the coming election. But they did not disguise their despair over party in-fighting.

If the funding helps produce a Blair-led Labour government, possibly in informal coalition with the Liberal Democrats and adopting more pro-European policies, it would tempt leftwing Tories to vote with the new government on European Union issues, as MPs, including Paddy Ashdown, predicted yesterday.

"It is absolutely vital that all those who are determined to see Britain play a constructive role in Europe combine across parties to make sure the anti-European Conservative majority is defeated, and that Britain is able to get the best deal from Europe. The Tories are not just a lame duck government, but a dead duck government," he said.

Edwina Currie, who last week threatened to stand down in her marginal Derbyshire South seat if more concessions are made to the Eurosceptics, few pro-EU Tories are willing to put their heads above the parapet. But familiar names which crop up as "the usual suspects" include Hugh Dykes, Sir Robert Hicks, Sir David Knox and Peter Temple-Morris, convenor of the Macleod Group of moderate Tories.

Hard times have returned, but this time Orthodoxy is to blame. David Hearst in Moscow reports

Christians suffer in Russia

CHRIStIAN denominations and their missionaries are again being persecuted in Russia, but this time the discrimination is being inspired and orchestrated by the Russian Orthodox Church rather than the Communist Party.

Provincial laws regulating the activities of "foreign missionaries" are being used to impose a complex and expensive system of accreditation, or licensing by the state.

Some regions are threatening to impose what amounts to a tax on worship at 10 times the minimum wage, and non-Orthodox Churches are already finding it difficult to hire halls for prayer meetings.

Udmurtia Republic has taken the laws to an extreme: missionaries must pay a £100 fee each month, they are fined £1,000 if they hold services outside registered places of worship, and they face a £2,000 penalty for distributing unsanctioned literature.

Religious intolerance is also growing in places where market reforms are most ad-

Kremlin wins support of opposition MPs for draft budget

RUSSIA'S embattled government scored a key victory yesterday when parliament, dominated by the Communist and nationalist opposition, was persuaded to approve the 1997 draft budget on its first reading, writes Oleg Scherbov in Moscow.

The prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, who was visibly relieved that a threat to Russia's economic stability had been averted, called the decision a triumph of good sense and cooperation.

Russian Communists and their allies in the lower house had previously opposed the draft. [about £2.750], which was spent on preparing all the documentation on the building. But we have been refused permission three times.

His 400-strong "Resurrection" congregation helps run an orphanage and old people's home. He said: "The patriarch [the head of the Russian Orthodox Church] recently declared that he did not have anything against the Baptists. For a long time our Churches lived in peace. According to the constitution, all the Churches have equal rights. But the tenor of recently adopted legislation in prov-

inces openly contradicts the 1993 constitution." The provincial laws allow local authorities to deny registration to groups practising prophetic witness, or what the legislation calls "promoting disobedience to the state authorities" or "igniting religious dissension".

The definition of a missionary is so wide it can include a Roman Catholic parish. Already two Catholic groups have come under attack from the Russian Orthodox hierarchy: Pro Deo et Fratibus runs a mission for children from poor families in the Yaroslavl region; and the House of Maria runs a drug rehabilitation centre.

Both were savagely criticised recently in an official Orthodox Church publication, the Missionary Observer. The author wrote: "The mission is full of electronic games. Also, Bruno [Mizolek, the mission's leader] is not the first missionary from abroad who tries to seduce children in such a way. Rock music is playing in the mission and children are doing there what they want. Pedagogical anarchism is a frightening phenomenon and here it flourishes."

Deputies voted by more than 2-1 for the draft. The second and third readings are due to be held on December 25, the day President Boris Yeltsin is expected to make his first visit to the Kremlin since his heart surgery last month. It then goes to the upper house.

The Missionary Observer describes the groups as "two arms of an octopus" enveloping the Russian Orthodox heartland. "They take our children to a small Disneyland, a trap of cunning devils," it says.

Mikhail Volkovich, a Russian who runs the House of Maria, said yesterday: "We used never to have these problems... Religion for us is a help in saving drug takers and it's not important whether that religion is Catholic or Orthodox."

Lawrence Uzzell, an Orthodox believer at the Weston Institute, a multi-denominational human rights group in Oxford, said: "I certainly agree that the Western missionaries themselves have a lot to answer for, for their insensitivity in going into a place that has had thousands of years of Christianity."

"But freedom of conscience is the most fundamental of all human rights. By violating its own constitution in this way, Russia is raising grave doubts about even its desire to become a law-governed state."

WOMEN and Maoris in cabinet

NEW ZEALAND'S prime minister, Jim Bolger, named four women and three indigenous Maoris to his cabinet yesterday, five days after his conservative National Party formed a coalition with the populist New Zealand First party.

Mr Bolger said the 20-member cabinet, along with six non-cabinet ministers, was a "bold reflection" of the country's diversity. He dropped three ministers to make way for the new blood: New Zealand First leader and former Bolger rival, Winston Peters, was named as deputy prime minister and budget treasurer. — AP, Wellington.

THREAT to exiled prince

CAMBODIA'S co-prime minister Hun Sen threatened yesterday to shoot down any airliner that brought exiled Prince Norodom Sihanouk back to Phnom Penh. He warned that any group that tried to protect the exiled half-brother of King Norodom Sihanouk would face violence.

"I have prepared 45 tanks to attack if any forces are deployed to protect Sihanouk," he said in a speech on national radio. "The fighting will be at Phnom Penh's Pochentong airport."

Prince Sihanouk agreed to go into exile in France after he was arrested last year for allegedly plotting to assassinate Mr Hun Sen. He was sentenced in his absence at a trial which international observers called a travesty. — Agencies, Phnom Penh.

Uday 'in serious condition'

SADDAM HUSSEIN'S eldest son, Uday, has been operated on four times in the past two days and remains in a serious condition after he was shot last week in Baghdad, an opposition group claimed at the weekend. Its report could not be independently confirmed.

He was wounded in the right side of the neck when gunmen opened fire with heavy machine-guns and threw grenades at his armoured car on Thursday, an Amman-based opposition group, said. Baghdad newspapers carried a telegram yesterday from the Palestinian Authority president, Yasser Arafat, who congratulated President Saddam on his son's survival and urged Iraq to continue backing the Palestinians. — AP, Cairo.

Police led to cyanide gas

A FORMER member of the doomsday cult Aum Shinri Kyo, which carried out a sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway in March 1995, has led police to about 1.5kg of sodium cyanide buried in the mountains, Japanese newspapers reported yesterday.

Satoshi Matsushita, arrested earlier this week after 18 months in hiding, helped police find three containers filled with the toxic chemical used to make cyanide gas, the reports said. Police would not confirm the reports.

Meanwhile, the former US vice-president Walter Mondale ended a long political career yesterday when he retired as ambassador to Japan, after three years in the post. — AP, Tokyo.

Priebke case delayed

AN ITALIAN war crimes case against the former SS captain Erich Priebke met a further obstacle yesterday when a civilian prosecutor said he had no jurisdiction. Italo Ormanni, Rome's deputy public prosecutor, referred the case back to a preliminary examining judge with a recommendation that Italy's highest court, the court of cassation, be asked to decide whether Mr Priebke, aged 88, should be tried in a civilian or military court.

On December 5 a panel of military judges had concluded that a civil court should decide whether Mr Priebke was guilty of complicity in Italy's worst atrocity of the second world war. The ruling brought the case into line with that of the former SS major Karl Hass.

Mr Priebke and Mr Hass are accused of complicity in multiple murders for their participation in the Ardeatine Caves massacre in March 1944, when 335 men and boys were shot in reprisal for a partisan bomb attack.

Mr Priebke's earlier military trial in Rome ended in uproar in August when the court found him guilty but ruled he was no longer liable for punishment. The verdict was later overturned. — Reuters, Rome.

Deranged man shoots priest

A DERANGED gunman who shot and wounded a priest and a sexton in a Geneva church before surrendering to police yesterday opened fire because the victims "would not leave me in peace", a Swiss newspaper reported.

After the shootings, the gunman called the SonntagsBlatt weekly on a mobile telephone as heavily armed police sealed off the area. "Hello. This is the former head of the city of Basel's military command. I shot a priest and a sexton a few minutes ago because they would not leave me in peace despite my warning," the weekly quoted him as saying. — Reuters, Geneva.

Loving mother

THE mother of Kofi Annan has been revealing some of the Ghanaian childhood secrets of the next secretary-general of the United Nations.

Victoria Annan, aged 88, said her son helped her as an informal debt collector for her bakery business in Ghana, for which she paid him a small commission. "He was all the time anxious to find out from me whether the customers had paid. If not he would be chasing them. He would just take my book and go out and take as much as he could get from them," she said.

She also recalled how Kofi, a twin and the third of her five children, was a lively and mischievous child at elementary school "but he always managed to get away with it". — Reuters, Accra.

Loving son

MOSHE BEERT'S 70-year-old mother died two weeks ago but he is keeping her in his freezer in central Israel until scientists find a way to bring her back to life. Israel Radio reported yesterday.

"It's very hard for me to part from her physically and emotionally. This is her will and ours as well because it's the only way we know to give her a chance to return some day." The court postponed a decision. — Reuters, Jerusalem.

Ship slams into shops

Martin Walker in Washington

MORE than 100 people were injured when a 763ft freighter rammed a hotel and shopping complex on the New Orleans riverfront at the weekend.

"It just kept coming," said a shopping mall worker, Chris Storey. "It started to shake and we looked out the store window — glass and water and the ceiling just started falling in. People started running out in panic and it just went black inside."

Another witness, Wood Thomas, said: "The ground started shaking like an earthquake and everyone started running out. People were trying to get off the casino boat, jumping into the river."

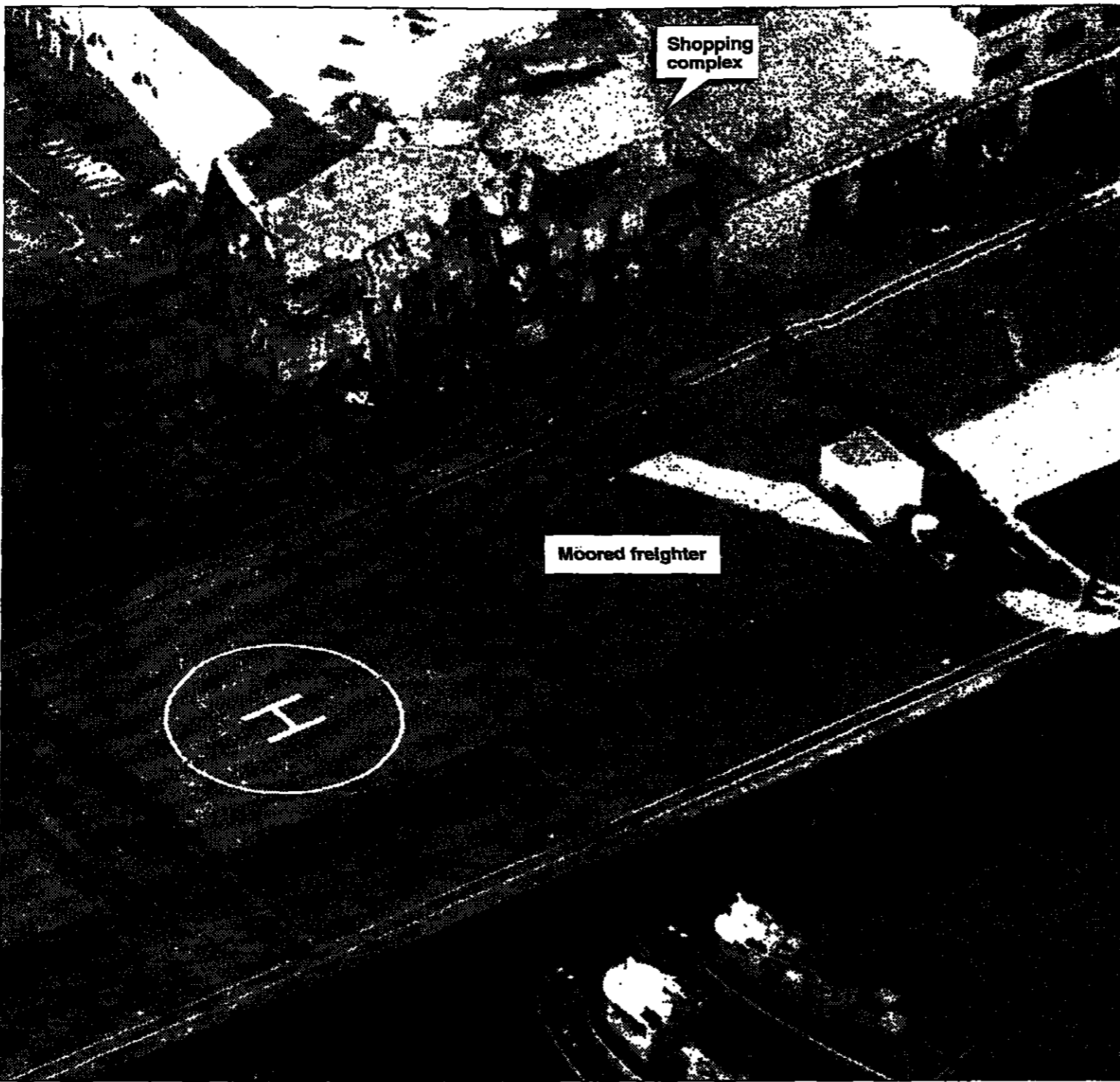
The Liberian merchant vessel Bright Field, loaded with grain, suffered a fuel pump failure and lost power and steering control as it entered the bend in the Mississippi at New Orleans known as Algiers Point.

Its sirens blaring, the ship slammed into Riverwalk wharf, plunging its bow into the Hilton hotel, and then skidded to within 70 feet of a moored casino boat.

"It's almost like a pancake, about a football field long," a city councillor, Oliver Thomas, said. "Right where there was a wharf, there is water now."

It was reported at first from the scene that at least six people had died, but this was later denied. Coastguard teams searching the rubble with infrared detectors found no sign of bodies. One of the injured was kept in hospital overnight.

The ship's horn and sirens began sounding nearly three minutes before it hit the wharf, giving people enough warning to start getting away. Nicole Truhand, who worked at a show store in the com-



The freighter Bright Field, which crashed into a shopping complex and hotel in New Orleans at the weekend

PHOTOGRAPH: JENNIFER ZIDON

plex, said her boss looked out of the window, saw the ship coming, and they all got out in time. A city councillor, Peggy Wilson, said a group of Girl Scouts who had been reported missing were found

safe, but four mentally retarded children could not be found hours after the accident.

Two tugs held the crumpled vessel against the wrecked wharf yesterday, fearing that

any attempt to extricate it could bring down yet more of the shopping complex.

The crash is likely to increase demands for more restrictions on shipping in the Mississippi, where 400

ships a day pass by New Orleans. It is the only place on the Mississippi where traffic lights have been installed to control the river traffic.

"It's the busiest and most treacherous stretch of the

river," said Lieutenant Verne Gifford of the coastguard. "You're talking about the river taking a bend of more than 90 degrees and a current as strong as 9-10 knots pushing water through there."

Ecuador's clergy sigh to be rid of fraudulent priest

The self-styled bishop of the 'Anglican-Catholic Church' may be stretching Christian tolerance. Phil Gunson in Quito reports

HIS business card and car number plate proclaim him to be the Anglican bishop of Quito. But Walter Crespo's bona fides as a man of the cloth — let alone an Anglican bishop — are, to say the least, controversial.

"He's a stone in our shoe," says Bishop Neptali Larrea, president of the IX Province of the United States' Episcopal Church and the real An-

glican bishop of the Ecuadorian capital.

"In our mission he presents himself as Anglican, and in Catholic villages, when it is to his advantage, he presents himself as Catholic. I don't know how much longer we can tolerate it. We've named a commission to monitor the situation. Eventually we'll have to sue him."

The self-styled Bishop Crespo, who admits receiving finance from the Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, and says he is also bishop of Tripoli, is unrepentant. Claiming to represent the true Anglican Church of Ecuador, he describes George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury and figurehead of the Anglican communion throughout the world, as "an unrepentant heretic".

"We pray for him every week," he says.

Dr Carey, though no doubt unamused, has confined himself to mild reproaches: "Walter Crespo is not, and never has been, a bishop of the Anglican communion."

Mr Crespo runs the so-called Anglican-Catholic Church of Ecuador (ICAE) from an imposing three-storey building in one of Quito's most exclusive districts. Local sources say the building, which doubles as his home and the "Church of St Nicholas", could be worth about 2650,000.

What is known is that Mr Crespo was running an officially sanctioned immigrant advice office, the Hispanic Pastoral Centre, which was closed by the INS in 1991, and that four of his colleagues were jailed for fraud.

Mr Crespo left the US at that time — though not, he claims, as a fugitive from justice. He describes the INS as a "fascist organisation" which "bought false witnesses who were given immigration documents in exchange for immunity".

But the dissident bishop who elected him decided, one says, that his election had been secured by "fraud almost unequalled", and determined to depose him from Holy Orders.

Gordon Charlton, the dean of an Episcopal seminary at which Mr Crespo studied, accused Mr Crespo in 1980 of "a certain irresponsibility when it comes

'The Archbishop of Canterbury is a heretic. We pray for him every week'

His priestly vocation, he says, stems from the late 1970s, after he worked for the United Nations in Geneva. He was elected bishop of Quito by dissident Episcopalians in the US who were angry about the ordination of women.

But his consecration appears never to have taken place, largely owing to a murky incident in South Orange, New Jersey, involving accusations of fraud by the US immigration service (INS).

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Spence was convicted of the murder of a Catholic barman. To this day he insists he was not responsible, but admits he was involved in other UVF activity. Gusty Spence profile

G2 page 12

President tells why he ousted 'brazen' Benazir

Phil Goodwin in Islamabad

PRESIDENT Farouq Leghari of Pakistan has launched a venomous attack on Benazir Bhutto — the prime minister he ousted in November — in a report to the supreme court which attempts to justify his use of constitutional powers to remove her.

In the 202-page document, which the president says has 7,000 pages of annexes, he alleges that Ms Bhutto and her government:

- Treated the national exchequer as a "kitty for her and her cohorts";
- Bugged the telephones of almost all senior judges and many key politicians;
- Made thousands of illegal government appointments;
- Masterminded "mass executions" in Karachi;
- Used decrees — because a clear government majority was lacking in parliament — to deny the opposition a role in law making.

Ms Bhutto has denied all the allegations. Senior members of her party object that the report has been set before the supreme court without obstacles, while her first two attempts to lodge a petition challenging her removal were dismissed by the court on the grounds that its language was "scandalous and objectionable".

Mr Leghari says the agenda of Ms Bhutto's government was "only personal aggrandisement... when policies being implemented are not merely violative of law, but are designed to institutionalise corruption, nepotism and the abuse of power."

When he ousted Ms Bhutto on November 5, Mr Leghari cited allegations that her ad-

ministration was behind the extra-judicial killings of hundreds of activists of the opposition party MQM in Karachi.

In his new document, Mr Leghari says Ms Bhutto turned Karachi into "killing fields" in an operation which the government "triggered" and "masterminded". He says hundreds of inquiries were held into the killings, but that no police officer has been prosecuted. The inquiries were, he says, a "charade" to "whitewash the crimes of the law enforcers".

With the full knowledge of Ms Bhutto, he says, Karachi's mortuaries "were filled with the victims of the... government's crimes against humanity". Her policy for dealing with law and order problems was to "execute them all".

Likening Ms Bhutto to the Nazi propaganda chief Josef Goebbels, the president accuses her of evading the truth.

"Such a blatant disavowal of the truth might be all in a day's work for the late Dr Goebbels, but it is tragic to see a person who has twice held the office of prime minister practising the art of the Big Lie perfected by the luminary of the Nazi regime."

The president calls Ms Bhutto "brazen", with "peculiar beliefs", "not connected to reality" and "unable to understand the concept of an institutionalised responsibility which transcends personal feelings".

"It is tragic to see a prime minister practising the Nazi art of the Big Lie"

He criticises her "complete disdain and lack of interest" in parliament, which he says she attended only rarely. And he casts doubt on her sincerity after the killing of her brother, Muraza, by police in Karachi in September.

Mr Leghari says Ms Bhutto portrayed herself as rushing to the hospital where her brother died, but she had gone first to her home in the city before arriving at the hospital two hours later.

He says Ms Bhutto attempted to "gain political mileage and squeeze the last drop of public sympathy out of this tragedy..." Yet her "alleged grief and agony did not prevent her from giving numerous public interviews".

He accuses Ms Bhutto of being involved in a cover-up of Muraza's killing and doing nothing to pursue the killers, who were "readily identifiable".

The president repeats allegations that Ms Bhutto and her family acquired huge properties abroad, including a mansion in Surrey, with illegally obtained money. He says legislative activity was virtually non-existent under her, and that the government plundered funds set aside for the destitute.

Lawyers for Ms Bhutto argue that Mr Leghari lacked proper grounds for removing her. When the previous prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, was removed in 1993, the supreme court restored him, saying a president had to demonstrate a breakdown in the institutions of government.

Mr Leghari's report follows an outpouring of allegations about him from Ms Bhutto, who has described him as stupid, corrupt and intoxicated with power. Recently she accused him of being behind her brother's murder.

The caretaker government which replaced her is due to announce today a schedule for the general election. It has promised to hold on February 8.



Muslim women in Islamic dress (above) attend a conference held to unify a community split by 25 years of conflict and broaden support for the peace settlement, and (below) the end of the war gives children a new taste of freedom

A 25-year war between the Philippine army and Muslim insurgents officially ended in September, but an armed group demanding secession continues to recruit children as young as 15. Owen Bowcott in Cotabato reports on the prospects for a lasting truce

Cracks appear in fragile peace

SECessionist Muslim rebels in the Philippines are training a new generation of fighters in mountain jungle camps around western Mindanao, despite the peace accord in September with the government of the mainly Catholic country.

In Cotabato, the administrative headquarters of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), children as young as 15 are being recruited for military service by the largest remaining insurgent group.

Three months into the peace process, however, the war which lasted for more than 25 years has stalled to a political stand-off. Sporadic violence is interspersed with waves of kidnappings to raise funds.

On the streets of Cotabato, Philippine army patrols and checkpoints remain in evidence, while Cobra helicopters line the airport perimeter. The province's slogan may be "Land of Peace and Tranquillity" — but Cotabato's mayor entrusts his safety to five heavily armed bodyguards.

Under the terms of the settlement, the largest rebel faction, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), agreed to end its military campaign. Its long-serving leader, Nur Misuari, became

governor of the ARMM and chairman of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development.

The breakaway Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which demands an independent Muslim state in Mindanao and claims to have up to 100,000 armed supporters, rejected the peace settlement and is awaiting separate talks.

"The MILF say they have taken up a defensive position, but they are constantly recruiting people to undergo three-week military training sessions in their mountain camps," said Professor Rufa Cagao-Gulam of the local Notre Dame University.

"Some of them are as young as 15 years old, at which time they are deemed strong enough to handle AK-47s or grenade launchers. The MILF even have anti-tank guns. Their arms come in from abroad or from corrupt soldiers who sell them army weapons."

The conflict in Mindanao has deep historical roots. Religion reinforces tribal divisions; Islamic merchants from Indonesia converted the inhabitants long before the Spanish conquistadores arrived from Manila in the 1570s.

The Spanish, confronting their traditional religious opponents on the far side of the globe, dubbed them Moors

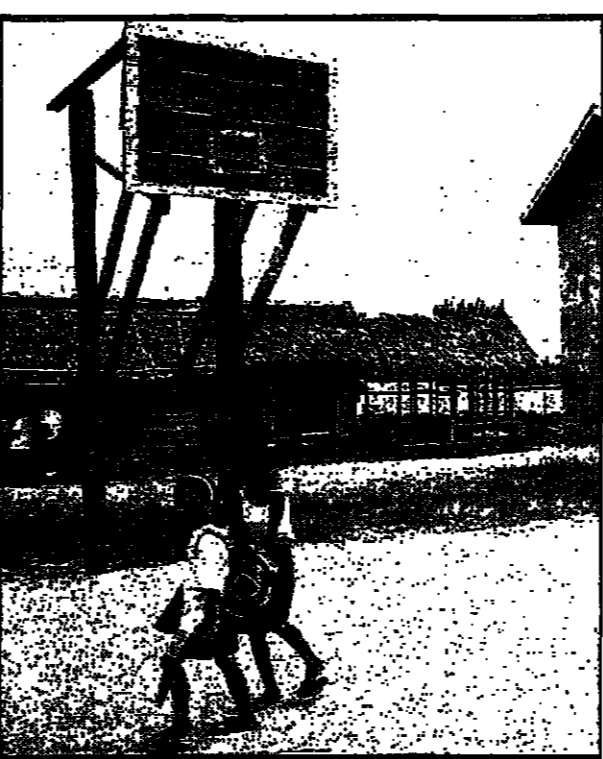
and began a campaign of military subjugation and the introduction of Christian settlers which continued until the Spanish were ejected from the Philippines by the United States in 1898.

The first concessions to the Muslim uprising came in 1976. Talks in Tripoli — attended by the Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, and Imelda Marcos, wife of the then Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos — resulted in an agreement to establish an autonomous region in Mindanao. The settlement did not hold.

The latest deal negotiated by President Fidel Ramos, appears more likely to succeed. It extends the pragmatic counter-insurgency policies he has adopted elsewhere in the Philippines, such as a succession of 60-day truces by the army in northern Luzon and other islands where it faces the remnants of the Maoist New People's Army formed to oppose Ferdinand Marcos.

Sator Ocampo, a former negotiator on behalf of the NPA, currently in parole in Manila, says there are relatively few clashes in northern Luzon nowadays. "The government's peace programme has been to entice rebels to surrender by offering them cash for handing over weapons. They receive 8,000 pesos (230) for each rifle."

The slow-moving negotiations have been plagued with



arguments between the NPA and the government over the arrest of communist activists. Some of the cash received for handing in rifles has been used to buy more modern weapons.

In Mindanao, the immediate problems are how to demobilise and find jobs for 30,000 former MNLF fighters who have no other skills. The ARMM organised a conference in Cotabato earlier this month to try to unify the divided local community and seek international expertise and funding. The partici-

pants included international aid agencies — including Britain's Voluntary Services Overseas — which offered support in development and training. The conference included a Muslim women's congress held to broaden support for the peace settlement.

Guimal Alim, one of the organisers of a recent MILF-backed rally near Cotabato which attracted a million Muslims demanding secession, agrees that there is progress.

"There is still fighting despite the 60-day truce," he said.

"It is premature to say the MNLF has got nothing. Misuari should be given another six months to see how his support is holding up on the ground. But the people are demanding Islamic law and an independent state."

The Philippine government is confident the peace process will hold. "There's already agreement with the MNLF," a spokesman said.

"The MILF may be recruiting and training, but they just want to prove they hold a strong hand. They would also like to take the new approach of talking to the government."

"Talks with the MILF were originally scheduled for October or November so we might see discussions after the Christmas holidays. In the meantime, there have been sporadic clashes."

Her policy for dealing with any disorder was to 'execute them all'

ministration was behind the extra-judicial killings of hundreds of activists of the opposition party MQM in Karachi.

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Likening Ms Bhutto to the Nazi propaganda chief Josef

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On the way up... Moverley (centre), then auxiliary Bishop of Leeds, and Basil Hume attend Mass at York racecourse

The Right Reverend Gerald Moverley

A pragmatic sense of faith

BISHOP Gerald Moverley, who has died aged 74 within six months of retiring due to ill health from his South Yorkshire and Midlands diocese of Hallam...

Catholic Irish community which for years had provided respectful and imaginative leaders of civic life. He encountered little local opposition to his decision that Stagg, the former commander of an IRA unit in Coventry...

lam followed in 1980. Dr Moverley's 16 years in the job were largely uneventful although he bore the brunt of Hillsborough, which included the nervous collapse of a talented local priest who had worked ceaselessly both at the disaster and afterwards with relatives...

A B Hargreaves

Peak performances and sharp opinions

FROM British rock-climbing's heroic age in the 1950s, the personality of A B Hargreaves, who has died aged 92, thrusts out with as vigorous a claim on our attention as those of the great leaders in those revolutionary activities on Welsh or Cumbrian cliffs he was involved.

low, and finally came to rest wedged in a crack just above the scree after falling over 70 feet, his sole injury a broken toe. A B was not so lucky. The hemp line by which he arrested Kirkus's fall had torn and burnt his hands to the bone, his nose was broken as the shock of holding the rope pulled him into the crack. But he still managed to joke stoically with his fallen leader down at the doctor's surgery in Coniston as his burns were bathed in carbolic acid and scrubbed with a toothbrush.

repeat ascents of extraordinary new climbs. And on the ferocious sandstone outcrop of Helsby near Chester, he had himself been instrumental in forcing the technical pace. But in 1961 he moved to the Lake District as a company secretary and stayed there until his retirement. The Lake District then was a climbing backwater, the most significant exploration taking place primarily in Wales. Although A B's climbing became more sporadic by the end of the 1950s, his contact with the mountaineering community remained intact. He was gregarious, combative, and loved to involve himself in the clubs he had joined in the 1920s.

then a chap might be inhibited in stripping off and showering when down from a vigorous day on the hill. When I voiced my disapproval to Jack Longland, he chuckled and told me that he would talk the "horrible little man" round. And he did, the "horrible little man" not really fitting the description at all.

To visit A B was an education. Exceptionally modest and self-effacing, he hated praise being bestowed on him but lavished it on friends, on the fine climbers who had put well-founded trust in him. He was a difficult and cantankerous character who had an odd genius for friendship, and a range of tastes which included opera and politics. He was sharp, challenging company. My abiding memory of him is of a frail, blind and tiny man of 90 or so crossing a wet Ulverston street in a wild blast of wind which came tumbling off the fells. He besters, coat falling, then hurls himself forward on his two sticks, jabbing across the asphalt towards his lunchtime pub with as fierce a resolution as any ice-axed mountaineer ever summoned. He bore years of infirmity with unflagging courage — all that antediluvian, all that spirit only quenched when every physical resource had failed him. And he recorded and recalled his own time with magnanimity.

Faron Young

The singing sheriff

FARON YOUNG, who has committed suicide aged 64, apparently in a state of depression about his poor health, was one of the generation of American country singers who entered the 1950s as legitimate of the honky-tonk sound of Hank Williams. Dark and saturnine, with the look of a Southern Basil Rathbone, he made his name not only as an extremely bankable recording artist but as a pillar of the country music business community.

mellow — some would say bland — crooning approach. In 1961 he boosted the song-writing career of the young Willie Nelson with a recording of his composition Hello Walls which not only topped the country chart but broke into the pop top 20. His reliable run of hits was undisturbed by his move to a new record label, Mercury, in 1963.



Faron Young... a pillar of the country music business community, hitmaker and writer of 'Walk Tall'

the 1960s, B-feature Westerns such as *Hidden Guns*, which gave him his sobriquet "the Singing Sheriff", or country music exploitation vehicles such as *Country Music Holiday* and *Nashville Rebel*. Later he was familiar to TV audiences for his ads for BC Headache Power.

The partnership played a crucial part in Kirkus's development into the most productive explorer of ways up rock faces which set standards of difficulty and seriousness rarely, if ever, hitherto achieved in Britain. As Kirkus's cousin, Wilfrid Noyce observed: "Hargreaves knew perfectly the way of coaching a brilliant leader."



Rat trap... a delighted Hargreaves (right) shows off a rat he has caught to two admirers

Based in Liverpool A B had been involved in the consolidation of the advances made in rock-climbing through the 1920s and 1930s. He was a member of the Liverpool-based Climbers' Club, the most promising amongst them a gangling, awkward teenager, Colin Kirkus, then a Liverpool insurance clerk. He and A B joined forces.

Georg Scheuer

GEORG Scheuer, who has died aged 80, played a key post-war role as a journalistic intermediary between France and Germany. A lifelong socialist, he was by then the Paris correspondent of Austria's Arbeiter Zeitung. As a writer on European politics, he was also the author of books on the Italian dictatorship. After Austria became a right-wing one-party state in 1933, and its government banned all political activities, Scheuer joined various socialist underground and youth groups. By the mid-1930s he had become disillusioned with the Communist Party as Stalin's great terror began to consume lives and the political structure of the Soviet Union. Thus it was, during the Moscow show trials, that he joined the small Trotskyite left opposition.

Birthdays

Benny Andersson, pop singer and composer, 50; Michael Blackburn, chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 55; Quentin Blake, artist, illustrator, 64; Norman Blamey, painter, 82; Arthur C Clarke, science fiction writer, marine explorer, 78; Myrella Cohen QC, circuit judge, 69; Peter Cole, professor of journalism, University of Central Lancashire, 51; Prof Bernard Crick, historian, biographer, 67; Peter Dickinson, author, 69; Joel Garner, cricketer, 44; Pat van den Bergh, footballer, 36; Heather Hallatt QC, vice-chair, the Bar Council, 47; Tony Hicks, rock guitarist, 51; John Kirwan, rugby player, 32; Jacqui Lait, Conservative Whip, 49; Stephanie Lawrence, singer, actress, 43; Trevor Pinnington, harpsichordist and conductor, 50; Sir Victor Pritchett, author and critic, 86; Rodion Sachedrin, composer, 64; Graham Stevenson, cricketer, 41; Jacqueline

Death Notices

McGOWAN Patricia (deceased) December 20 aged 75. George, Mary, & David of 141 Wylly Road, Hove, Green, 2.45 p.m. Friday, December 15, 1995. Donations to Lisagill Care Facility, or the Brighton Hospice. Enquiries to Hartmanns, 01273 77623.

Jackdaw



The Distant Hill

HE was on his way home to Siberia from the front line. He was in Moscow with his ticket already in his pocket. At the station he went into the wooden bar to down a glass of vodka. The woman behind the counter gave him a curious and affectionate look as she handed him a battered sandwich to eat with his drink. "Don't you disappear now," she said. "Come back again." "What for?" he asked. "You look like my husband," she answered quietly. "he was killed right at the beginning of the war."

Evolutionary

WHENEVER I get a package of plain M&M's, I make it my duty to continue the strength and robustness of the candy as a species. I hold M&M's duels. Taking two candies between my thumb and forefinger, I apply pressure, squeezing them together until one of them cracks and splinters. I eat the inferior one immediately. The winner gets to go another round.

M&M's

an hour or two. Then he threw away his ticket and went back to the barmaid. And that was how he came to live in Moscow. She bore him three daughters and they brought him little but sorrow. From Leo Tolstoy's memoirs of years as a USSR Gulag prisoner in History Today. Razgon later discovered that in the 1930s Niyazov had shot hundreds, even thousands, of Stalin's victims on the place they called the Distant Hill.

Kid's stuff

AGAINST a wall in a temporary screening room in rural Louisiana, raw footage from Adrian Lyne's newly-filmed version of Nabokov's controversial 1938 novel, Lolita, about a middle-aged man in love with a 12-year-old "nymphet" — the term coined in the novel by Nabokov's paedophile anti-hero, Humbert Humbert, to denote girls "between the age limits of 9 and 14" who possess "certain mysterious characteristics, the fey grace, the elusive, shifty, soul-shattering, insidious charm."

Bah! Humbug

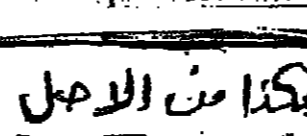
57 ELM STREET BETHLEHEM, PA 11.51PM, DECEMBER 24 We're here too late! It's been here. Mulder, I hope you know what you're doing. Look, Scully, just like the other homes: Douglas fir, truncated, mounted, transform me into a shrine, halls decked with

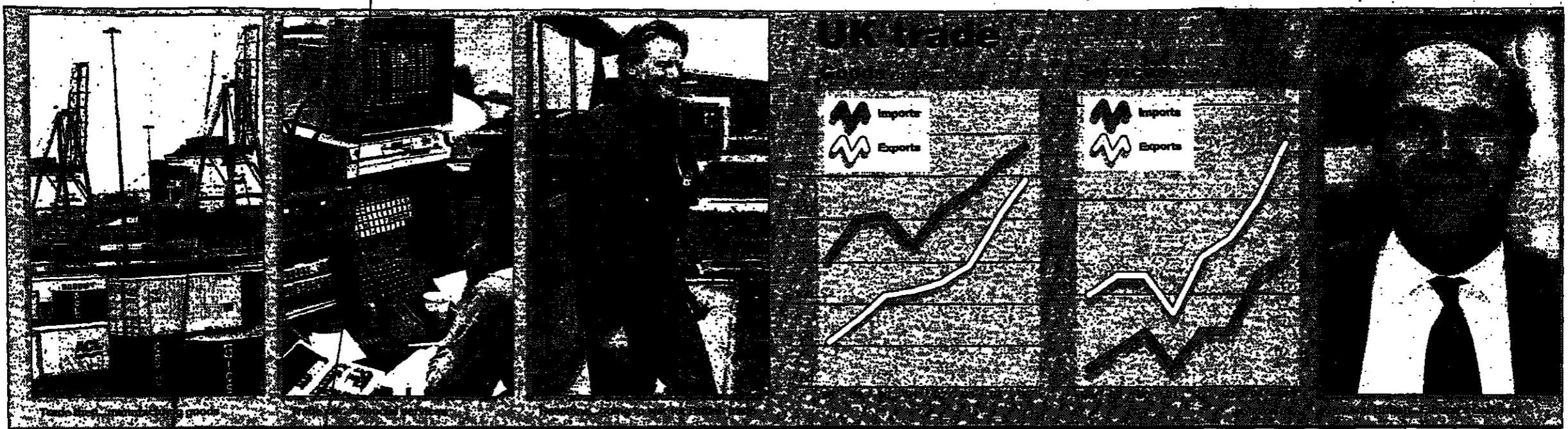
Down and dirty Vanity Fair

What are you talking about? Ancient mythology tells of an obese heroid entity who could travel at great speed in a craft powered by antlered servants. Once each year, near the winter solstice, this creature is said to descend from the heavens to reward its followers and punish disbelievers with jagged chunks of anthracite. But that's a legend, Mulder — a story told by parents to frighten children. Surely you don't believe it? Something was here tonight, Scully. Check out a bite marks on this gingerbread man... It gorged itself, Scully. It fed without remorse...

You mean like a bowl (of jelly)?

Exactly, Scully. I've never heard anyone this, but when I was a child my home was visited now and then by a bowl of jelly. It had long blue shanks of fur surrounding its ruddy, mis-shapen head, a bloodied torso with red and white. I'll never forget the horror. I turned away, and when I looked back it had somehow taken the facial features of my father. I know what I saw, and the night it read my mind. It brought me a Mr Potato Head. I'm sorry, Mulder, but you're asking me to disregard the legs of physics. From a *Rutless X-Files* parody in the New Yorker attributed to "Frank Cammuso and Hart Seely" — but it sounds like a *Darin Morgan* episode to us. Shouldn't the time be 11.21pm? You can E-mail us, we're jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4686; jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Edited by Vaneese Harlow





ELECTION BATTLEGROUND/ Developing nations suspicious of the WTO's agenda

Dream club that costs the earth



Larry Elliott

At a frantic pace, America, a huge country blessed with stupendous natural resources, has taken more than a century progress to reduce its tariffs, and it is still riddled with protectionism.

Small countries are being dragged into a liberalisation process so rapid that there was a strong undercurrent of thought at last week's meeting that the globalisation is merely the rich countries looking after themselves.

The scepticism is well-placed. While ministers from Senegal and Jamaica were speaking to a largely empty hall, the Americans and the Europeans were sitting together at a deal to open up the global market in IT.

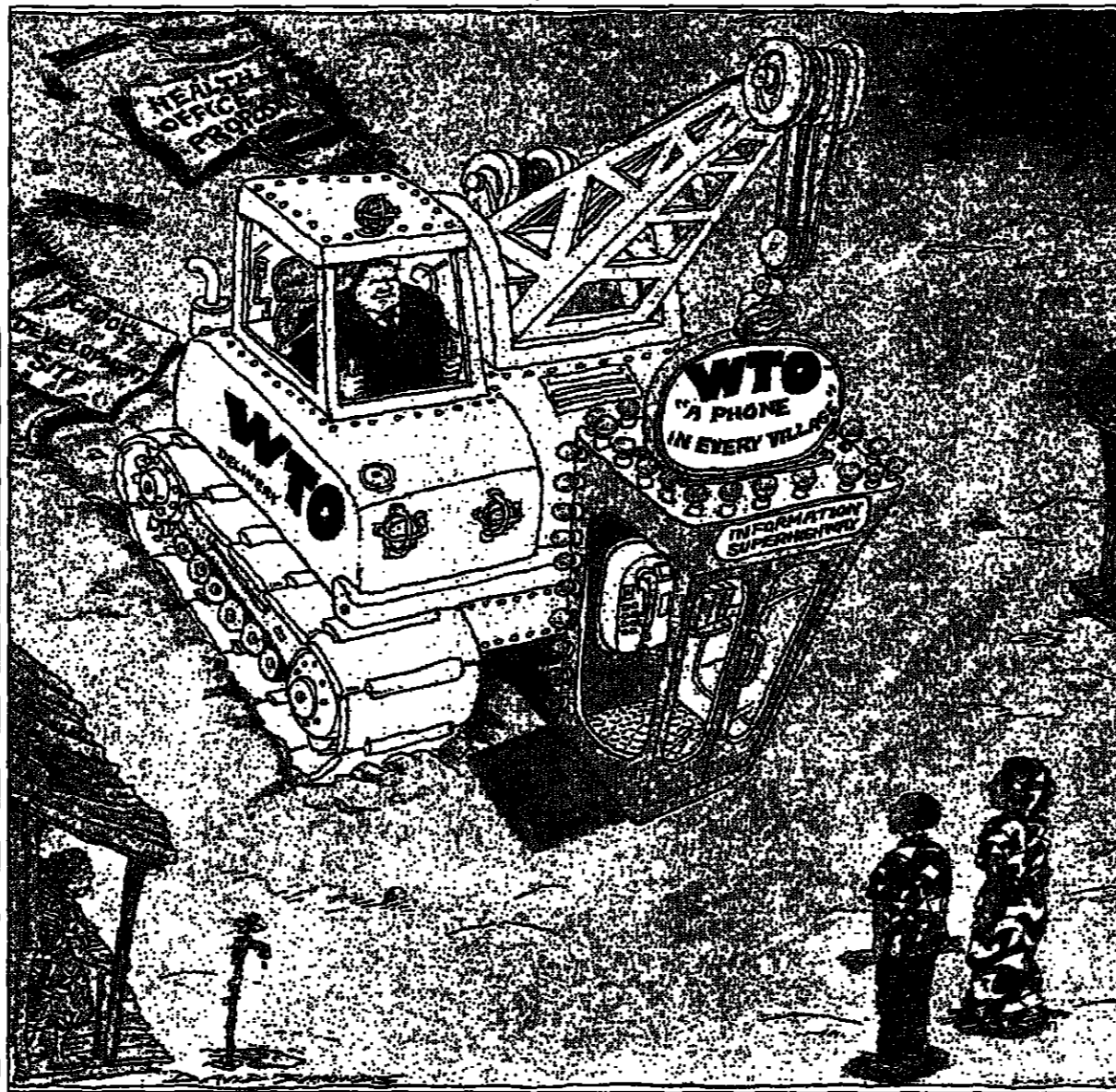
To be fair, Washington and Brussels made no bones about what they were up to. Charlene Bekelesky, the acting US trade representative, spent more than 45 minutes at a press conference talking about how good the agreement would be for American high-tech firms.

The IT negotiations underlined a simple fact for all their talk. The EU and the US are not on a crusade for free trade at all. The doctrine of classical free trade stipulates that cutting your tariffs is a good thing, whatever other countries do.

In truth, the US, the EU and Japan are old-fashioned mercantilists who believe that trade is a zero-sum game in which the biggest benefits in terms of jobs and growth go to those with the most clout.

The big players, naturally, have a different approach. If a smaller country dares to suggest that a big transnational should be denied access, that sort of protectionism has to be stamped out, even if it means the smaller country is thereby prevented from building up its own industrial base. The counter-argument is that protectionism is, without question, disastrous for jobs and growth. Economists need look no further than the Smoot-Hawley tariff, introduced in the US in 1930, to know conclusively that protectionism equals depression.

Unfortunately, that argument looks less good when held up to



the light. The US tariff had been tripled to 40 per cent in the aftermath of the first world war, but productivity and growth soared in the 1920s. The reason, according to revisionist US economists, is that income taxes were cut, increasing the spending power of domestic producers.

By contrast, the Smoot-Hawley tariff was accompanied by a swingeing income-tax increase, and it was this that caused the slump. It is not free trade that delivers productivity gains and growth but ferocious internal competition.

This is an argument that cannot be dismissed out of hand. America's share of exports in GDP has doubled in the past 20 years but productivity growth has fallen. Growth has been sluggish and real wages have

dropped. Here we come to a final point. Even if the increase in trade boosts overall global output, how can we be sure that the gains from that growth are distributed fairly? Moreover, if the growth has a high but unqualified ceiling, is it really doing it actually represent greater prosperity at all?

Over the next few years, the WTO will have to address these concerns. The future over labour standards last week reflects the growing sense among workers that the globalisation process is heavily skewed towards satisfying the needs of capital.

There is a question of redistribution, both within and between countries, that will not go away. Additionally, some WTO watchers are rightly concerned about the possible environmental

Free trade is far from perfect goal it is held to be

Debate/New policies spell pollution. Who pays, asks Simon Zadek

The World Trade Organization may foster environmentally destructive production and trade at the expense of economically weaker nations. The danger is that governments are discouraged from fully accounting for the environmental and social costs of trade.

The supporters of free trade argue that it will bring economic growth — and that rich countries pollute less and use less resources per head of population.

In this theory the relationship between national income and trade is thought to be shaped like an upside-down U: environmental degradation increases only up to a certain level of income and then begins to decrease.

A host of studies during the 1980s and 1990s tested the existence and nature of this inverted U-shaped relationship. Many of these studies, including one carried out recently by the New Economics Foundation on behalf of the World Wide Fund for Nature, have concluded that the data and methodology in the research which supports the curve are wobbly. NEF's report says the more bullish studies ignore some of the polluting practices of industrial countries.

Analysis that has sought to adjust for such critical omissions and errors of analysis have found that it is possible that, as income increases, pollution increases too. The confounding view that the environment will be "looked after" through economic growth is, quite simply, wrong.

The evidence indicates that conventional trade liberalisation generates significant and often irreversible environmental damage. The studies suggest that increased trade need not always have such negative effects. The policy and institutional environment in which trade takes place are important factors.

The forms of production and trade encouraged through liberalisation policies may be of the wrong kind to achieve the environmental-economic "win-win" option.

It is vital to abandon the view that economic growth must be achieved before acting to protect the environment.

The cost of damage to the environment must be accounted for, at a macro level in the national accounts, in relation to the activities of transnational corporations through environmental and social accounting, and at local levels.

Environmental legislation must be enacted and enforced where voluntary action in relation to environmental protection is not forthcoming. It will be necessary to compare nations and communities which act to protect common global resources as well as their own environment — in direct financial terms or through certain forms of trade liberalisation that encourage environmentally-benign production in poorer countries of products for sale in richer markets.

Adding this up means that the environment must be a cost and benefits of change, that a legislative framework which encourages production for international trade (the WTO) must simultaneously address and regulate its environmental and social consequences.

In addition, those countries and communities that bear the economic brunt of environmental protection need to be supported by the wider international community of nations.

Simon Zadek is research director of the New Economics Foundation

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 2.02	France 6.38	Italy 2.480	Singapore 2.26
Austria 17.47	Germany 2.46	Malta 0.5780	S Africa 7.64
Belgium 51.18	Greece 395.00	Netherlands 2.78	Spain 209.00
Canada 2.19	H Kong 12.50	N Zealand 2.2980	Sweden 11.11
Cyprus 0.7325	India 56.50	Norway 10.46	Switzerland 2.11
Denmark 9.55	Ireland 0.9995	Portugal 252.10	Turkey 165.489
Finland 7.58	Israel 5.44	Saudi Arabia 6.17	USA 1.82

Beware the Euro-police squad's thin, pink line

Wom's eye

Dan Atkinson

STRAUBOURG. Expect with wailing and gnashing of teeth in London! If, as expected, Ernie Saunders' efforts to bring a landmark case to the human rights court concerning his treatment by the British authorities. Your average chatter has

long approvingly assumed the Euro-judges to be a dainty collection of sixties-type law professors concerned only with giving the terrorists legal aid.

That a capitalist hyena such as Saunders (a man who, in another life, committed the ultimate Islingtonian sin of selling baby arms to the world's cold blooded succour in Strasbourg is unthinkable. Down the road in the City, however, a Saunders victory may well have even the

most sceptical fat-cat smiling. After all, a proper regard for the rights for very important suits not to be asked impertinent questions by the Department of Trade and Industry will be a welcome sign that the court is abandoning infantile obsessions with human rights.

Conversely, those union rights who have spent five years being terribly *owned* about the single currency may now twig that the "vital public services" upon which their members

Lloyd's takes Names to court

Pamela Springett

LOYD'S of London will this week launch a three-part legal battle in an effort to force a slip of recalcitrant Names to say more than £200 million.

Names — whose wealth he traditionally formed the capital base of the 300-year-old insurance market — have refused to sign Lloyd's recent £2.2 billion rescue package.

The deal was accepted by 25 of the market's 34,000 names at the end of August. Lloyd's lost £2 billion in the 16 years from 1980 to 1992. The settlement dealt with the market's collapse. But a hardline group of

Alliance & Leicester plans to grow

Tony May

ALLIANCE & Leicester plans to expand further into banking, insurance and unit trusts after its £29 billion stock market flotation in the spring.

The company, which will rank 70th out of the Stock Exchange's top 100, will still be small by the standards of other banks and could prove vulnerable to a predator. To avoid takeover it plans "to rapidly put on weight," a spokesman said yesterday.

Alliance has been looking for insurance companies like Friends Provident and rivals like the Bradford & Bingley building society but it will not be mounting hostile bids.

The spokesman denied reports that Alliance planned a rights issue to raise extra cash from those savers and borrowers who are being offered shares worth about £1,000 each.

Instead, to finance its planned expansion the company will approach City fund

managers and investors with plans to raise funds in exchange for shares.

The extent to which the Alliance has already diversified is one of its most appealing characteristics as far as the City is concerned.

It gets 40 per cent of its £227 million profit from non-traditional sources, like the £70 billion Girobank cash transmission business which made a surplus of £85.5 million last year.

Peter White, chief executive of Britain's fourth largest building society, has told investors: "The Alliance & Leicester is looking to grow its business and indeed that forms part of the rationale for our flotation."

"We are looking to make acquisitions that fit our business strategy and for which there is a proper business case. We do not intend to make any hostile approaches and when we identify companies we will go to the City with a plan and the name of the organisation and the amount of money we need."

Another 150,000 people face new year with no job to go to

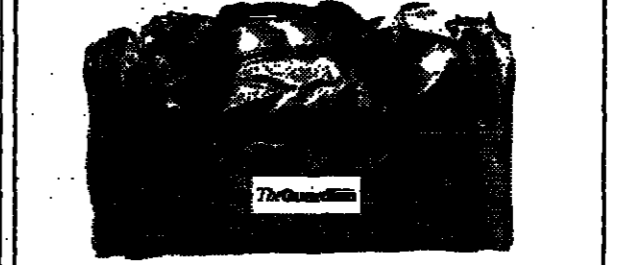
Seamus Milne

MORE than 150,000 jobs are due to be lost in the new year, despite signs that

the official unemployed claimant total is about to drop below two million, says a Labour Party study.

Labour's redundancy court — culled by employment spokesman Peter Hain from company and government announcements — shows that job cuts are planned from banking and construction to textiles and public services.

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INTERNATIONAL RUGBY

England 20, Argentina 18

Rowell's ragged army in need of refit

A high price for a poor victory

Ian Malin sees little return from new era of rich investment

Robert Armstrong

ENGLAND avoided the humiliation of a home defeat by the amateurs of Argentina but there was no escaping the grotesque shambles of their worst performance since Jack Rowell took charge in 1984.

Rowell's disorganised crew — team would be a misnomer for them — entered into the Christmas spirit by handing six penalties which the excellent Argentinian goalkicker Gonzalo Quesada took with aplomb despite unsporting whistling from the 60,000 crowd.

Since the World Cup 18 months ago England have learned nothing and forgotten many of the basic lessons about forward play.

Rowell talks about getting to grips with the "issues" of team selection and development.



Moment of cohesion... an England attack keeps its momentum for once as Nick Beal squirms out of an Argentinian tackle and finds Tony Underwood in support

never gave such an inept display of kicking from hand as the Bath player has done against the New Zealand Barbarians and Argentina.

England's root problem was their inability to build a solid platform under persistent pressure from a highly motivated Argentinian pack.

The England coach should stop justifying every mediocre performance by Catt by reminding us that it took Rob Andrew 20 games to establish himself as an international fly-half.

chested athletes with a surprising turn of pace, not to mention delicate skills. As Leonard pointed out: "Their front row [Grau, Prozanio and Reggiardo] outweighed us, though we are not small."

Behind the scrum Argentina showed greater composure and tactical nous as their halfbacks Miranda and Quesada demonstrated with shrewd option-taking.

We have given Catt three games in a row at No. 10 while searching for the combination that will take us forward. Others will come into the reckoning

fences that allowed Catt to kick five superb penalty goals and keep his side in touch until Leonard and friends rumbled over in the left corner eight minutes from time.

It remains to be seen whether Phil de Glanville, who missed the Argentina game with a thigh strain, will win back his place — and the captaincy — now that Guscott and Carling have resumed their midfield partnership.

England may be professional in body as well as mind, yet the disjointed pattern of the domestic season will embroil squad members

his time and energy consumed by his role as captain of Bath, who are going for a league and cup double as compensation for their early exit from Europe.

Certainly the dangers of burn-out threaten a number of England players involved in the proliferation of fixtures on behalf of club and country.

We have got to up the pace of the game and of our thinking. Some excellent stuff came in the last 10 minutes but that does not excuse what went on before

called second-rank rugby nation to come perilously close to inflicting embarrassing damage.

Argentina's scrum-half provided a defining *tour de force* in the visceral arts and sciences of the position — and time and again spirits soared to the memory of the onliest Gareth on the same famous field.

Now even the true blue amateurs of Argentina are planning a professional structure to prevent the further export of beef such as Federico Mendez and the prop Mauricio Reggiardo.

Scotland 29, Italy 22

Stark improvement flatters Scots with Five Nations looming

Gordon Lyle at Murrayfield

SCOTLAND will be able to look forward to the Five Nations with greater optimism based on an improved second-half display

in the final game before they open their campaign here against Wales next month.

After tralling the Italians 12-8 at the interval, the Scots cut loose when it mattered, with the decisive try coming from the replacement Derek

Stark 12 minutes from the end. While the margin of victory in the first full-cap meeting between the countries may not appear flattering, the Scots looked sharper in several areas. In an improved

scrummage the new cap, Mattie Stewart, shone at tight head while Scotland were more competitive at the restarts largely due to the recalled Andy Reid. There was also some excellent finishing from the backs.

January 4, believed they were unlikely. Their captain Massimo Giovannelli said: "We matched the Scots in virtually every department. We showed again that we can compete with and come close to beating a major rugby nation."

However, Charlie Bisset, a Scottish representative on the Five Nations committee, is reported to have said that Italy's possible inclusion is not down to playing ability alone.

return on matches was an important factor.

The South Africans coach Andre Markgraaf acknowledged as much: "Joost's greatness is a factor in any Test he plays. Howley might be good, very good, perhaps the best in Europe, but we have Joost and let the British Lions remember that next year."

Markgraaf's hint of a smile became noticeably broader

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY

Wales 20, South Africa 27

Boks hide singed as the Welsh team catch fire

Robert Armstrong

SOUTH AFRICA might conceivably be ruled only the second-best side behind New Zealand, but they turned in a performance worthy of world champions in outscoring never-say-die Wales by five tries to one in an enthralling match.

The movement, colour and spirit of enterprise demonstrated by both sides made for an invigorating contrast with England's leader-footed performance at Twickenham 24 hours earlier.

None of Van der Westhuizen's mesmerising scores, however, would have been possible without the fearsome pace and power of the Springbok forwards, whose work in broken play created innumerable opportunities.

It was easy to believe Van der Westhuizen when he said: "It's lovely to be back at the Arms Park and to score three tries here. The Welsh are a very good side, especially in counter-attack. They played good rugby."

As their captain Jonathan Humphreys said, Wales got better and faster the longer the game lasted, often threatening the Springboks on their own line, but the world champions' ability to keep moving up a gear meant Welsh pressure

tended to come to nothing. "The pride and the passion were there," Humphreys insisted. "We mobilised the line-outs and experimented a lot more — we took a big step forward today."

The Springboks built a comfortable 16-8 lead within 25 minutes, which swiftly put Wales on the horns of a dilemma: should they kick their short-range penalties or tap and run in the hope of a converted try? Humphreys took the safer option, handing the ball to Jenkins, who obliged in the first half with four penalty goals.

On the stroke of half-time Jenkins again reduced the South African lead with a short-range penalty but the second period had barely begun when Van der Westhuizen again showed his predatory instincts, tearing the ball out of a maul in front of the Welsh posts and crashing over to complete his hat-trick. Jenkins's fifth penalty goal barely

interrupted the Springboks' progress.

In the final quarter Wales's aim was to keep the scorers respectable, which meant defending in depth with courage and organisation as the Springboks launched wave after wave of attacks.

With three minutes left, Arwel Thomas scored a magnificent consolation try at the left flag, after Howley fired the ball from a scrum. It was the least Wales deserved for their brave and unrelenting effort.

long-time steady-as-she-goes incumbent Neil Jenkins playing a grand match at full-back — a position he says he does not fancy — the debate about the talismanic No. 10 shirt will now continue to run to the combined fury and delatation of every taproom in the Principality.

Unlike the London crowd, the Cardiff throng was encouraged to get behind their team at every opportunity.

Thomas was a late replacement at fly-half for the scrum-half Robert Howley, a glistering find. Up against the very best in the game in Joost van der Westhuizen, Howley faced his sternest challenge but came through.

Arwel does well... Thomas caps a fine display with a try



Arwel does well... Thomas caps a fine display with a try

Arwel does well... Thomas caps a fine display with a try

Howley — a Lion poised for attack

Frank Keating marvels at the other class act in a No. 9 shirt

IN TRUTH the thunderously dynamic South Africans might have posted well over the half-century but the spirit and spunk displayed by Wales, and even at times their traditional native panache, provided serious hopes for a rousing genuine challenge in the Five Nations tournament.

Wales coach Kevin Bowring said: "And Arwel does — he keeps us on the edge."

Thomas was a late replacement at fly-half for the scrum-half Robert Howley, a glistering find. Up against the very best in the game in Joost van der Westhuizen, Howley faced his sternest challenge but came through.

When he recognized that many of the Springboks on Saturday night had watched the recordings of both the matches played by Scotland and England.

Yesterday South Africa time and again looked as if they were about to pop open the stopper and let out their myrtle-green genies all over the shop. Each time Wales courageously bottled them up again.

The new Welsh red roset had much more red meat about it, giving and taking some mighty knocks and in both cases seeming to enjoy it for the cause.

When he recognized that many of the Springboks on Saturday night had watched the recordings of both the matches played by Scotland and England.

Yesterday South Africa time and again looked as if they were about to pop open the stopper and let out their myrtle-green genies all over the shop. Each time Wales courageously bottled them up again.

The difference between Sunday in Cardiff and Saturday at Twickenham was palpable. Or is it that the haughty English expect too much and the also-rans of Wales actually expect so little?

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.



Britain's away winners... Mark Foster, 50m freestyle title-holder at the European short-course meeting in Rostock, and Jon Brown, European cross-country champion in Charleroi. The high jinks, right, are by Germany's Max Rauffer at Val d'Isere

Weekend results

Table showing weekend results for Soccer, World Cup, and European Qualifying Group Five.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

Table showing National League results for First, Second, and Third Divisions.

Second Division

Table showing Second Division football results.

Third Division

Table showing Third Division football results.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Table showing Bell's Scottish League results for Premier and First Divisions.

TENNIS SCOTTISH CUP

Table showing Tennis Scottish Cup results for First round.

ICIS LEAGUE

Table showing ICIS League results for Premier Division.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Table showing FA Carling Premiership results.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Table listing leading goal scorers in various football leagues.

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WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP

Table showing Women's Premiership results.

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DR MARTENS LEAGUE

Table showing Dr Martens League results.

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WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP

Table showing Women's Premiership results.

WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP

Table showing Women's Premiership results.

Rugby International

Text about rugby international matches, including England vs Argentina.

Badminton

Text about badminton events and results.

Basketball

Text about basketball games and results.

Cross Country

Text about cross-country events and results.

Chess

Text about chess tournaments and results.

Cricket

Text about cricket matches and results.

Golf

Text about golf tournaments and results.

Ice Hockey

Text about ice hockey games and results.

Rugby International

Continuation of rugby international news.

Badminton

Continuation of badminton news.

Basketball

Continuation of basketball news.

Cross Country

Continuation of cross-country news.

Chess

Continuation of chess news.

Cricket

Continuation of cricket news.

Golf

Continuation of golf news.

Ice Hockey

Continuation of ice hockey news.

Fixtures

Table listing upcoming fixtures for various sports.

SOCCER



Ahead of the game... Kevin Ball takes on the Chelsea defence and forces home Gray's cross for Sunderland's second goal in their emphatic win at Roker Park

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Premiership: Sunderland 3, Chelsea 0

Reid's terriers lead Chelsea a merry dance

Michael Walker

MIDDLESBROUGH may be in free fall while Newcastle are spluttering somewhat but at a moonlit Roker Park yesterday Sunderland proved that there is still a beating pulse in North-east football. They did so in convincing fashion against a limp Chelsea team that had the look of dejected men long before the final whistle.

most of the time they were doing the twist as Sunderland's angry young men chased and battled with a passion that does not always disguise their deficiencies. It did yesterday, though. An unfortunate own-goal from Duberry midway through the first half gave Sunderland a slightly undeserved lead but further goals from Ball and Russell after the interval were warranted and, as Sunderland swelled, Chelsea shrivelled.

success: the hustling for possession which was to prove vital. Chelsea were never allowed to settle. Neither side came into the game in particularly impressive form and a scrappy opening reflected that. Sunderland's won-one-lost-a-couple run is relegation material while Chelsea had not triumphed in any of their last four. Admittedly three of those were draws but Zola has not yet been on the winning side.

though, was the decision by the manager Gullit to play alone at centre-forward as he did not wish to risk Hughes, who had played for Wales on Saturday, picking up a hamstring injury. Judging by his demeanour, the Chelsea manager may have been experiencing a tinge of regret as early as the 15th minute. He stood hands on hips and dreadslocks shaking in disdain at an attempted pass from Duberry. A minute later Gullit was at it again.

but at least hinted at cohesion. It was not until the last seconds of the first half that Perez, in the Sunderland goal, was forced into any serious action, when he saved bravely at the feet of Wise following another clipped Zola pass. By that stage Chelsea were behind, albeit in unfortunate circumstances.

Russell declined to celebrate, perhaps Duberry should be given the dubious privilege of being the scorer. Prior to that Sunderland had wasted an inviting opportunity when Bracswell surged unhindered into the Chelsea area but knocked his centre behind Russell and to the left of Rae. However, though a block by Perez at the foot of the goal suggested the Londoners might be finding a workable pattern, Sunderland's persistent harrying was creating problems.

by a red-and-white shirt, he fed Gray. The winger can often infuriate with his poor delivery but his time Gray produced a gem of a centre that Ball met with a smiling, diving header from five yards. Gullit, who had introduced Di Matteo at half-time, then brought on Hughes but Chelsea continued to labour and, when Russell added a third in the 68th minute, the Blues were already a defeated team.

Scottish round-up

Rangers set to resolve Dalglish saga this week

Patrick Glenn

SERIOUS doubts have been cast over the likelihood of Kenny Dalglish accepting Rangers' offer to become their global chief scout.

The Ibrox chairman David Murray said at the weekend that he expects to meet the former Liverpool and Blackburn manager this week, after which he should be in a position to make a statement. But Murray also confirmed that two previous discussions have taken place and several weeks have passed since news of Rangers' approach first broke.

It is believed Dalglish has already indicated he is not interested in the scouting job and that Murray may be trying to lure him into a position which would be a face-saver for Murray, who does not like being seen to be rejected. It is believed that, if his approach to Dalglish had remained a secret and the latter had refused his offer, the matter would not have been pursued.

The Chilean striker Sebastian Rozental has finally agreed a four-year contract with Rangers but will remain with Universidad Catolica until a work permit becomes available. All 10 of those allowed to non-EC players in Scotland are currently in use. The Ibrox side could have done with Rozental's reputed scoring skills against Dundee, whose canny defending contributed to a boring 50 minutes.

First Division: Norwich 1, Crystal Palace 1

Baffling failure to stand out from the crowd

Nick Hutchings

FOR anyone daft enough to be delving for a little rhyme or reason to this season's First Division promotion race, Carrow Road at a quarter to five on Saturday would have revealed all. For there was this winter's rush for the land of milk and honey in all its fundamental finery: an ugly, inconclusive 21-man brawl in which both ambition and obvious ability flourished in the face of a season-long session of push and shove, high on nine months of January sales' scrapping for the gilt-edged dinner service.

In the 87 minutes that preceded this astonishing free-for-all, Norwich City and Crystal Palace had offered enough evidence of thoughtful football to suggest that both will be near the head of the herd in May. Yet after Neil Adams deflected freekick in the 71st minute had wiped out Neil Shipperley's smart, third-minute opener for Palace, Norwich were left with only their third point from a possible 21 and Palace with two from 12. Meanwhile Bolton were on top, without a win in seven and Wolves in the play-off pack but victims of a sixth home defeat. It is shambles.

Ray Houghton set Saturday's late fun and games in motion when he took exception to Darren Eadie's tumble over the beaten, back-peddling Kevin Muscat. Booked in the first period, Muscat's crude block on Norwich's flying England Under-21 forward had the referee fumbling for his red card before Houghton heaved Eadie to the floor. Two minutes later, with Marc Edworthy and John Polston writing on the ground in the land of two falls and one submission, Muscat departed for his second bookable offence and Houghton, first to reach for the handbag for "violent conduct." It was his first dismissal in 18 years as a professional.

As for the one player to stand alone and aloof from that Saturday scrap, a gleaming, gold star to the Palace defender David Tuttle. If only the charge for the Premiership were as simple. Standing out from the crowd is a definite art form yet to be mastered by the First Division's finest. No crisis at the Palace, then, just a little local difficulty. "We're not playing that badly," Bassett insisted. "We're still scoring goals, the dice will turn. It's like your marriage - if you have a row with your missus you don't divorce her."

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Aldridge proves to the Manor bom with display of striking quality

Russell Thomas sees Oxford outclass Sheffield United

DAVID MELLOR, demonstrating that a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing, confused Oxford present and past on Saturday evening by mistaking one Aldridge for another.

No matter, Martin Aldridge was probably flattered to be mentioned in the same breath as John by the garrulous radio show host. Aldridge's hat-trick in 20 first-half minutes evoked memories of his unrelaxed namesake but all comparisons end there. This spectacle at the Manor Ground offered all manner of contrasts.

Oxford were scarcely flattered by the home manager, Howard Kendall was equally forthright, condemning his team's performance as "the worst since I've been at the club." The visit to Oxford, a significant venue for Kendall in Everton days, marked his first anniversary as the Blades' manager. His team left their good habits in the dressing-room, along with Mick Vonk, who damaged an Achilles tendon in the pre-match warm-up.



Smith... shoestring success

the air, where Jemson can seldom have enjoyed such superiority. In Oxford's defence Smith's most expensive purchase, the £175,000 Elliott, mopped up aerially and on the ground. Even the quick, clever Katchourou was ensnared.

Only Kelly's reputation authority but their first home defeat extended a worrying sequence to seven League matches without a win, although sandwiched between was that 3-1 Coca-Cola Cup victory over Spurs. It is unwise to judge a team on one performance, particularly as they were missing two key players, Gerry Taggart and Nathan Blake, on International duty. However, two thoughts emerged strongly: if Bolton are the best side in the division then the rest must be pretty poor; and the general standard of football outside the Premiership continues to decline.

Bolton Wanderers 1, Ipswich Town 2

Leaders lose invincible look

Stephen Morley

THE Manchester Evening News' Saturday headline "Nude witch to be a JP" easily topped anything that was ever going to happen on any North-west football pitch at the weekend, although the link between law and order and the weird and wonderful is clearly prevalent in the First Division.

It has long been obvious that the decline of British football at European club level has as much to do with the inadequacies of our managers as with the technical failure of the players. Our game, notably in the lower divisions, needs fresh thoughts from abroad and an altogether more imaginative approach on and off the pitch.

George Burley, a member of that team, has had a real struggle to right the listing Suffolk ship although now, with youngsters like Wright, Naylor and Scowcroft, the scorer of both goals, there is more optimism than for some time. But will he be able to keep such burgeoning talent?

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Second Division
Bristol City 1
Bristol Rovers 1

Inquiry ordered as derby ends in riot

David Foot

THE Football Association launched an immediate inquiry into allegations that Bristol Rovers players were assaulted by Bristol City fans as they left the pitch at the end of yesterday's derby. Eight Rovers players, who had gone to acknowledge their own fans' cheers at the final whistle, suddenly sensed danger as several hundred City supporters chased to cut them off.

"It's a serious matter and we will be looking at it as a matter of urgency," said the FA's Steve Double. "We need to see the referee's report and what the police have to say. But we're particularly concerned about reports that players were attacked." An equaliser by Peter Beadle, 90 seconds from the end, had led to a pitch invasion by celebrating Rovers fans which caused a five-minute delay. Mounted police had to clear the field. "We have worked so hard to dig this club out of a hole - now I have to wonder if it was worth it," said City's young chairman Scott Davidson. "It was appalling."

Wolverhampton Wanderers 0, Oldham Athletic 1

More problems at home put a dampener on McGhee's anniversary

Peter White

THIS was not the most auspicious way for Mark McGhee to complete his first year as Wolves' manager, with any thoughts of celebration going to all intents in the 14th minute when Oldham's lanky striker Ian Ormondroyd rose unmarked to meet Nick Henry's deep centre and plant a firm header beyond the reach of Mick Stowell.

From that moment Molineux again saw Wolves' inability to break down a team content to sit back and soak up the pressure. This was the sixth occasion this season that McGhee's multi-million pound line-up has tumbled to defeat at home.

that Wolves have already wasted ample opportunity to establish a comfortable advantage at the top. "We cannot afford to lose another game at Molineux if we hope to gain automatic promotion," he said. "We must turn the corner now if we are going to make the top two."

McGhee is wondering which way to turn. "It comes to a point where science goes out of the window. We have made some progress during my 12 months here but we still have some way to go."

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Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Five pages of sport

Rugby Union
Wales get
master class
from world
champions
13

Soccer
Fan pitch
invasion
wrecks local
derby match
15

SportExtra

HUMILIATING START TO ONE-DAY SERIES

England sink to a new low

David Hopps in Bulawayo sees Mike Atherton's batsmen collapse again

ANYBODY in the mood for another story of sporting humiliation? Oh, go on. There are times when the England team seems to have been invented as the vehicle for scorn and derision.

but just invites a feeling of depression. Console yourself that you are not alone. But indignation must still work within you somewhere.

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Includes England XI and Zimbabwe players.

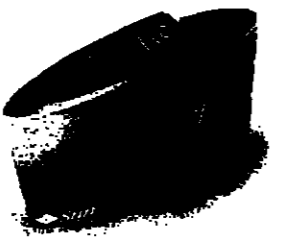
Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Includes Zimbabwe players and bowlers.



Up to his knees in despair... the England bowler Darren Gough shows his disappointment as Zimbabwe clinch the first one-day international in Bulawayo

MORSE

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How Erika became Erik and gave Marielle gold

Alex Duval Smith explains why a French skier became a world champion this weekend 30 years after the event

MARIELLE Goetschel has received a world alpine skiing championship gold medal 30 years after the event when it became clear that the woman who beat her was a man.

Goetschel in the downhill by 0.5sec. "Even though he was masculine, he thought he was a woman," Goetschel explained.

the Grenoble Games. Doctors detected only male chromosomes in his saliva. Goetschel, the most successful woman skier of all time, runs a holiday village and ski school with her two sons in Val Thorens.

"I used to always say to Philip: 'Stay off the heavy drugs' and he'd give me a look and say: 'Oh, Ma, you don't think I'm stupid, do you?' But they lie to you. They surround themselves with other people on drugs and say: 'Don't let my Ma know'."

The perils of being a rock mum

Guardian Crossword No 20,837

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares and clues.

- Across: 1 Regular girl student (6), 4 Educational measure? (6), 8 Turns up with a mother cat (4), 10 It helps the dough spread further (7,3), 11 Irregular forces decoration (5), 12 Jack Sprat's catch? (8), 13 The height of architectural draughtsmanship (9), 15 Reader's request for original work (4), 16 It is fitting amidst extremes of penury (4), 17 Stingent restriction takes vice to a low level (9), 21 Unearth a tomb in a Canadian province (8), 22 Discover a doctor breaking the law (6), 24 One who provides a luncheon voucher (4,6), 25 Female soldiers after company (4), 26 Not off upon a visit, but ready to make one (2,4), 27 What the champagne did when little Florence got married? (6), Down: 1 Not involved in fight, so not charged (7), 2 Gathers in spare parts (5), 3 Publicising wine where it's dirty free (7), 5 Show EEC arrangements about French wine (6), 6 Expressed sorrow about abstainer caught in cupidity (9), 7 It's obvious I've turned up to make an impression (7), 8 International shipping lines (8,5), 14 Acidly critical? (9), 16 Fix old boy up with dummy pill (7), 18 Master takes female over fifty, in marriage (7), 19 He's angry about the ref being wrong (7), 20 John, half-gone on the bottle, is jolly (6), 23 Tropical bird with head of myna and a cry of a rook (5)

Writers of puzzle solutions... This week's winners of a Collins Roger's International Thesaurus are Mr. R. Startup of Brynmill, Swansea, A. N. E. R. Sawitt of Aylesborough, Norfolk, Keith Martin of Gillingham, Preston, Mrs. B. Clements of Exmouth, Devon, and Gareth Howlands of Ashford, Kent.

Handwritten Arabic text: صديقا من الامم